

Hafa Adai!

CCAC gets 4 new helping hands. **PAGE 5**
Cybersecurity operation nears launch. **PAGE 7**

75¢

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IPI: Invested \$1B Paid govt \$300M Lost \$500M-plus

» **Except for 2 vendors, IPI says remaining \$2.8M in outstanding payments to vendors will be paid off next month**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC issued yesterday a lengthy statement that responds to some of the issues being raised against it and claims to have invested around \$1 billion in the CNMI to date, paid over \$300 million in taxes and fees to the government, and cumulatively lost over \$500 million.

In the same statement, IPI also said that, by next month, it will pay off the rest of the \$18.17 million to the CNMI government that settles the latter's claim for non-payment of Business Gross Rev-

See IPI on **Page 4**

'64-hour work is the best option'

» **Administration says Manglona just throwing rocks from sidelines**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Department of Finance made the correct changes to project a 64-hour work schedule instead of the earlier projected 72 hours, according to press secretary Kevin Bautista yesterday.

See 64-HOUR on **Page 4**

Kilili: New rule impacts CW extensions

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sablan (Ind-MP).

The Trump administration can now deny extensions or deport CW-1 workers, E2-CNMI investors, and green card applicants, if deemed likely to become a public charge, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C.



Sablan

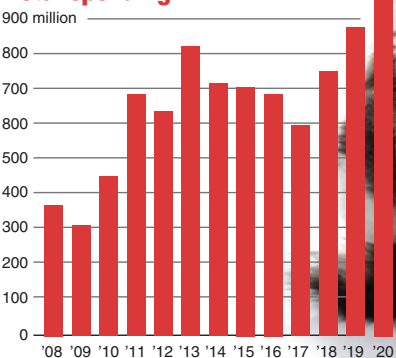
A public charge is a person who receives government cash assistance for income or long-term care. That means one who received food stamp or Medicare benefits.

In a website post yesterday, Sablan said that the U.S. Supreme Court See KILILI on **Page 4**

Valentine's spending on pets all time high

Twenty-seven percent say they will buy Valentine's gifts for their pets, the highest figure in the history of the survey and up from 17 percent in 2010 for a total \$1.7 billion.

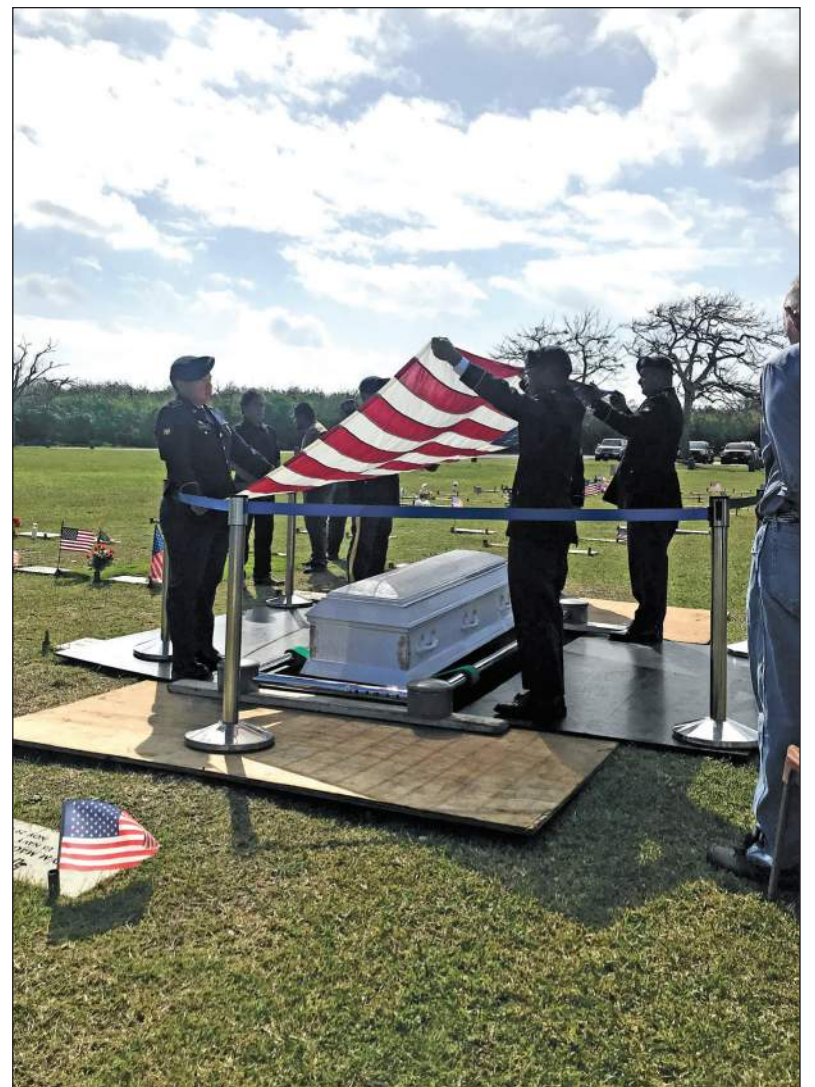
Total spending



1.7 billion



Source: NRF
Graphic: Staff, TNS



VETERAN LAID TO REST

Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets perform honor guard roles at the burial of the late Army veteran Robert McCausland yesterday at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi. Photo shows them removing the American flag that had been draped on McCausland's casket.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Story on **Page 6**

INSIDE



SUPPLEMENT

Today's *Saipan Tribune* comes with a Valentine's Day supplement, *Always and Forever*.

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WORLD

Uganda scrambles to respond to the arrival of the biggest locust outbreak in a decade.

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LIFE & STYLE

In the strongest defense testimony yet, a model belies a Harvey Weinstein accuser's claim.

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Local

SIS inducts 36 students to Nat'l Honor Society

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan International School inducted 36 students into their National Honor Society and the National Junior Honor Society at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Island Club Saipan in San Antonio last Jan. 29.

Antonio last Jan. 29.

NHS and NJHS are the nation's premier organizations that recognizes high school and middle school students who have at least 3.7 GPA and went through a rigorous selection process. The candidates are evaluated on the basis of character, leadership and

service to the school and the community, and a five-member faculty council decides the admission of the candidates.

For school year 2019-2020, Saipan International School welcomed new NHS members Susan Chen, Hyunmin Cho, Julianne Hall, Cevina Hwang,

See SIS on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Inductees of the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society pose together after the ceremony at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Island Club Saipan in San Antonio last Jan. 29.

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² All loans and lines of credit are subject to credit approval. For lines of credit, there is no discount on introductory fixed rates or fixed rate locks unless otherwise indicated in a specific promotion. Home equity lines of credit are not available in CNMI. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

³ Banking services and special benefits depend on the Priority Level you apply for and maintain. These benefits may be lost if account is closed or converted to another type of account. Please see a Priority Banking Plan Checking Account Agreement for specific terms and conditions. The offer cannot be combined with any other discounts, offers, or promotions.

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Attao says they asked Finance to re-crunch numbers

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao said yesterday that they asked the Department of Finance to revisit the budget for fiscal year 2020 and provide lawmakers with clearer numbers.

Attao said they met with Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig and that Torres-Palacios administration is proposing a 28.3% budget cut.

"So we are waiting for their numbers, the clearer picture of the actual effects," Attao said.

Atalig earlier informed Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Thursday that the cancellation of flights from China has prompted them to revise the annual revenue estimates for the fiscal year, from an



Attao

initial projected decrease in gross revenues of \$39.20 million to \$48.38 million.

Atalig disclosed that gross revenue estimate for the current fiscal year is now expected at \$184,834,810, which is a decrease of \$48,387,717 from the \$233,222,527 appropriated under the budget law, Public Law 21-08.

When asked about the administration's revision numbers, Attao said that that was one of the things they asked Atalig and the administration for clarity, saying that a review of the communication from Torres turned up an additional subtraction that made the shortfall balloon.

"So we want to make sure that they address that so we can revisit the numbers [and] maybe a percentage would drop down," said Attao.

Attao said they called Atalig to a meeting on Monday because they want to understand the allotments breakdown that they got that day.

"We're concerned because if that's the way the cut is being broken down, it almost looks like a 59% cut across the board," he said.

The speaker said they want to address that and refer back to Torres' communication that came from Atalig as to what the number really was.

He pointed out that the Legislature was the first one to act on last year's austerity measures.

He said that when the allotments came in in March or April last year, or prior to the

administration even implementing the austerity measures, the allotments had already been cut so they had to

adjust all of their staff.

"And for some of us, we actually we had to release some staff because of the al-

lotments," he said.

Attao said the Legislature's allotment is all under operation costs. In the Executive

Branch, there's operation and there is personnel costs, whereas there is only one account for the Legislature, for

each member.

"So everything is under operational expense," he said. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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<p>2018 HYUNDAI KONA 12,000 MILES STARTING AT \$15,995 STK: 18HS869</p>	<p>2016 MAZDA3 SPORT PLUS • 20,135 MILES STARTING AT \$14,995 STK: 6R135-D</p>	<p>2018 MAZDA3 SPORT • 12,512 MILES STARTING AT \$17,995 STK: 18HS833</p>
<p>2017 MAZDA CX-5 SPORT • 15,500 MILES STARTING AT \$17,995 STK: 17HS845</p>	<p>2015 TOYOTA PRIUS C HYBRID H/B • 31,000 MILES STARTING AT \$14,995 STK: 9M114-A</p>	<p>2017 MAZDA3 SPORT • 13,063 MILES STARTING AT \$16,995 STK: 7HS813</p>
<p>2014 MAZDA CX-9 TOURING • 44,010 MILES STARTING AT \$15,995 STK: 4R222</p>	<p>2019 MAZDA CX-3 SPORT • 201 MILES STARTING AT \$18,995 STK: 9R189</p>	<p>2018 MAZDA CX-5 SPORT • 9,300 MILES STARTING AT \$18,995 STK: 18HS859</p>
<p>2018 MAZDA CX-5 16,000 MILES STARTING AT \$18,995 STK: 18HS870</p>	<p>2018 MAZDA3 SPORT • 9,000 MILES STARTING AT \$15,995 STK: 18HS860</p>	<p>2018 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SEL • 8,000 MILES STARTING AT \$13,995 STK: 18HS868</p>
<p>2016 MAZDA6 15,986 MILES STARTING AT \$18,995 STK: 6R186</p>	<p>2017 MAZDA6 SPORT • 15,535 MILES STARTING AT \$17,995 STK: 7HS788</p>	

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Water service outage on Friday

There will be a scheduled water service interruption for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers along Twins Supermarket in Puerto Rico to the Marina Heights building and the Lower Navy Hill area on Friday, Feb. 14, 2020 from 8am to 5:30pm. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of

water services soon after.

The purpose of the emergency water service interruption is to allow CUC's water operations personnel to perform repairs on a damaged 2-inch main service lateral located at the intersection to the Marina Heights building and to Smiling Cove Marina in Garapan.

Motorists are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling by the area as the outer northbound lane by the traffic lights near Marina Heights will be closed.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

IPI

From Page 1

enue Tax. IPI had reportedly already paid \$12.5 million out of the \$18.17 million assessed against it.

As for its obligations to local vendors, IPI claims that it has only about \$2.8 million in outstanding payments, which will be paid off too by this mid-March.

By then, IPI said it will clear all payment requests from local vendors over 90 days.

With respect to two vendors, Pacific Rim and U.S.A. Fanter, IPI said it will resolve their differences through appropriate legal proceedings.

During Monday's Senate session, Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) stated, among other things, that the CNMI government is willing to impose a 16-hour cut for government employees, yet remains silent about the whereabouts of \$40 million that IPI owes the CNMI people.

IPI said that it, too, has implemented work-hour cuts among its employees in response to the rapidly evolving situation regarding the coronavirus outbreak that is affecting the CNMI as well as the rest of the entire world.

IPI said it has faced two devastating natural disasters—Typhoon Soudelor and Super Typhoon Yutu—with the people of the CNMI, and that they are confident that the Commonwealth will endure and rebound once again. IPI assured that it is “fully committed to the CNMI as always.”

IPI recalled that only seven days after the company first opened its doors in 2015, the CNMI was struck by Soudelor. Immediately after the disaster, IPI “jumped right into recovery work, assisting the community in its efforts to recuperate and return to a life of normalcy.”

After Soudelor came numerous other challenges, which IPI said it also overcame, including a severe

shortage of skilled labor, an economic slowdown in China, discontinued flights from Japan, unrest in Hong Kong, unfavorable immigration policy changes, and emerging competing destinations in Asia.

IPI said that in 2018, when Super Typhoon Yutu hit Saipan and Tinian, the company, along with the entire business sector, had to suspend operations temporarily while the tourism industry and the community began recovery effort.

IPI noted that the CNMI experienced a loss of roughly 14% of Chinese arrivals in 2019, exacerbated by unrest in Hong Kong and trade tensions between the U.S. and China.

“Today, the new coronavirus outbreak is impacting the world, the CNMI tourism industry, and our community at a speed which has already outpaced the SARS epidemic of 2003,” IPI said.

It said the impact to travel demands throughout Asia began weeks ago and, although the company is faced with the difficult decision to mitigate these challenges, it still “holds true to the CNMI and its people.”

IPI pointed out that, although it has been with the CNMI for a little less than six years, the company has shared the same adversities that all other businesses have faced in this period.

“Our company has struggled, our employees have struggled, and our ability to create a steady stream of income has suffered,” IPI said.

Throughout all of these unexpected adversities, IPI said the company has done its best to honor the commitments that it made to the CNMI back in 2015.

Since the award of the casino license, IPI claimed it has created thousands of jobs and generated countless business opportunities for hundreds of local businesses. IPI said it would like to address the losses it has incurred and the tax refunds associated with their agreement with the CNMI.

legal immigrants determined to be a “public charge,” or dependent on public assistance.

Sablan said minority communities, including more than a million Asian and Pacific Islanders, are expected to be disproportionately impacted by the Trump administration rule.

Sablan said that is why he joined fellow members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Black Caucus in filing amicus briefs in opposition to Trump administration's public charge rule.

The amicus briefs argue that the public charge rule was written with discriminatory intent against non-white, non-European immigrants

IPI said it is the company's understanding that it overpaid taxes by over \$40 million, which will result as a refund. Nonetheless, IPI said, with the realization and announcement of the government's budget shortfall, the company proceeded with the settlement on Business Gross Revenue Tax payments.

On its obligations to vendors, IPI called on all its local vendors to collaborate on verification and audit of products and services, and help the company to achieve its goal on payment clearances.

IPI said that, with the relative size of its business, it is exceptional to have no payment requests outstanding over 90 days and that the company will work to accomplish this.

IPI said one area that it has been very proud of is its community work and the projects it has accomplished for the benefit of the CNMI.

IPI said it established the Community Benefit Fund in 2018 ahead of the original timeline, with the expectation that it will be granted the public land needed to start the next phase of their project plan.

IPI said Yutu and the coronavirus outbreak have drastically changed the business conditions and outlook, but the company is still “fully committed to finishing the development project.”

However, IPI said it requires that IPI obtain the land that can take up a large amount of investment.

“As an investor in our island's future, IPI has undertaken unprecedented endeavors and has made tremendous contributions to the CNMI given the repeated adversities we all have faced,” IPI said.

IPI vowed it will continue this hard work and fulfill its commitments.

“IPI would like to thank everybody for their understanding and support and IPI appreciates the sacrifices made by its employees and their families. IPI asks for your patience and continued support during this time of hardship,” IPI said.

and violates both the Equal Protection Clause, and the Administrative Procedure Act.

The briefs said the public charge rule would expand the definition of who is considered a “public charge” and consequently makes it more difficult for immigrants to come to the U.S. or receive green cards if they are likely to use benefits that they are legally entitled to such as Medicaid, housing assistance, and nutrition assistance.

Members of the Congressional Tri-Caucus in a joint statement issued last September stated that they believe the Trump administration's public charge rule was written with the intent of intimidating and discriminating against immigrants of color.

SIS

From Page 2

Hyeonbin Jeong, Semi Ji, Joobin Kim, Seunghyun Kim, Geon Ho Lee, Sean Lee, Arabella Lose, Kuu Nishimura, Sofia Osnach, Hyeonjae Park, and Jimin Woo, Tiana Cabrera, Linxi Cai, Serin Chung, Martha Culp, Hazel Guerrero, Huiwon Jeong, Hannah Kang, Savita Sikkel, Yelyn Kim, Dong Gyu Lee, Dong Hyun Lee, Yunwoo Nam, Justin Ngo, Grace Quichoch, Jesus Sablan, Hyeonbo Shim, Yejin Son, Ian Song, Jin Hee Woo, Kexuan Yu, and Jinie Thompson. With these additions, SIS now has 41 NHS members and 27 NJHS members.

64-HOUR

From Page 1

He said that implementing the 64-hour work schedule is the best option available without sending government employees home on furlough and protecting the retirees' pension, he added, responding to what Sen. Paul A. Manglona's (Ind-Rota) raised during Monday's Senate session.

He also said that Manglona continues to politicize the economic downturn by bringing up the deficit issues once again.

In talking about the austerity measures, Manglona had said at the Senate session that the CNMI government appears willing to impose a 16-hour cut for government employees, yet remains silent about the whereabouts of the \$40 million that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC owes the CNMI people.

Bautista said the Division of Revenue and Tax and IPI have already come to a settlement agreement on its taxes, so the enforcement mechanism has remained. Bautista said they continue to work with the Commonwealth Casino Commission in requiring IPI to meet its business requirements while also allowing them to maintain their viability.

“At a time when we need economic development for both the short and long terms, we need to ensure the viability of all of our businesses so they can turn their success into government revenue,” he said.

The press secretary said Manglona once again fails to understand the gravity of the CNMI's unanticipated economic circumstances.

Bautista said the administration's decision to implement the 64-hour work schedule is based on an accurate and realistic estimate of the revenue loss of \$48.3 million due to the novel coronavirus outbreak. He said this is taking into account the full loss of Chinese tourists for the rest of fiscal year 2020.

“Once the outbreak is contained, international economic analysts project that there will be pent-up demand for travel, so we remain hopeful that our tourism market rebounds quicker than what we have conservatively set in order to protect the health of our residents,” Bautista said.

He said Finance has been monitoring the government's cash flow and revenue streams closely since the outbreak started, so they have the most accurate numbers in order to make a decision that protects people's health

Parents, guests, and teachers assembled the NJHS and NHS induction ceremony to celebrate and welcome the new members. The lighting of the white candle marked the beginning of the ceremony, led by formally-dressed inductees, 15 NJHS and 21 NHS, who entered the theater, received the candles, recited the pledges, and joined the honor societies.

To maintain their membership, these students must maintain their grades and participate in a service project. For the past years, NJHS and NHS members of SIS have adopted a yearlong school-wide mentoring program to assist elementary and middle school students and students who have special needs.

while keeping public services open.

Bautista said the senator has no basis for calling out Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' budgetary decision because they communicated with the Legislature before this announcement of austerity measures was made and ensuring that accurate projections will justify the decision.

He said the original estimate by Finance last week projected a 72-hour work schedule, but then due to the outside factors affecting the economy, the revenue loss was projected to be larger after the World Health Organization classified the outbreak as a global health emergency. This, Bautista said, effectively shut down the CNMI's second largest market, China, altogether.

He emphasized that the persistent deficit spending on Medical Referral happens every year because of the various needs of the economy and places the administration in a position of either exceeding the statutory appropriation or denying essential healthcare services to people.

Bautista said while the administration and the Medical Referral Office are continuing the hard work of instituting changes to reduce overall costs associated with off-island treatment of critical conditions, deficits will continue to grow unless the Legislature puts in the statutory changes needed to cut down on Medical Referral's spending control, which is mandated to take care the varying needs of critically-ill patients.

Bautista said it is crucial to the advancement of the islands to be truthful in the assessment of responsibility.

“As Gov. Torres has stated, as leaders in the government, we all share in the responsibility to ensure the allocation of resources and the provision of services provides for the needs of our people,” he said.

The administration vowed that financial recovery will be implemented once this outbreak is contained.

Bautista said it's easy for Manglona to throw rocks from the sidelines yet the senator has been in the Legislature for decades and hasn't held an executive position to deal with these decisions.

“Politics and blame are helpful to his cause in the short-term, but real leaders take time to ensure accuracy in its revenue projection, maintain public services and retirees' pensions, and prioritize the public health of our islands,” he said.

Bautista said Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios will continue to do this difficult, but important work.

KILILI

From Page 1

lifted last week a nationwide injunction that has been blocking the “public charge rule.”

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services immediately announced that applications will be subject to the rule, if postmarked or submitted after Feb. 23, 2020.

In a 5-4 vote, the justices allowed the Trump administration to begin enforcing the “public charge rule,” making it harder for poor immigrants to gain green cards.

The policy in question would expand the U.S. government's ability to refuse green cards or visas for

CCAC gets 4 new helping hands

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture has welcomed four skilled carvers to help with the construction of a traditional canoe that's being built at the canoe house in Susupe.

The four additional carvers who joined the project last Jan. 30 are Department of Corrections inmates and are helping grand master navigator Antonio "Tony" Urmeang Pailug and John Castro, project coordinator of the seafaring tradition program of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, with the construction of the traditional canoe.

"You can only get so much excitement from cutting grass or painting buildings, so this is something new and exciting

for them," said Sergeant Ryan A. Kaipat of DOC.

Kaipat said these inmate workers look forward to waking up in the morning, knowing that they are able to do something that makes use of their skills.

"The inmate workers that are here are happy and excited to give back to the community and do something they're experienced in," Kaipat said.

He stated the inmates help for free and, if allowed, their help will be added to their community service requirements. "One of the comments that inmate workers make once we're back at DOC is that they enjoy what they're doing and they're always asking if there's other projects," Kaipat said. "They always say how they're trying so hard to not get in trouble and to make themselves better so they

could do better and fix their mistakes."

Since last Feb. 3, two more

individuals have volunteered to help Castro and Pailug in building the traditional canoe,

which is meant to teach the CNMI community about the importance of the traditional canoe; to show the world how traditional navigators learned how to navigate using just

stars; and to teach the youth about traditional seafaring, which is the practice of travelling by sea. It will also be showcased at the Festival of Arts 2020.

Increased military activities due to Cope North

Commonwealth residents are being advised not to be alarmed if they see several military aircrafts in the CNMI this week as these are part of the Cope North 2020 Exercise.

According to a joint advisory issued yesterday by the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and

CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Commonwealth residents are being informed of "active air-flow activities within the Mariana Islands Range Complex."

It said that military flight patterns will be in the vicinity of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands beginning this week as part the

Cope North exercise, an annual, bilateral exercise designed for multilateral humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training activities, inclusive of a large-force employment conducted jointly by the Department of Defense and allies to enhance interoperability and mission readiness among multinational partners, such as

Australia, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

The joint advisory was issued to inform members of the public not to be alarmed by the increased military airflow activities associated with the exercise.

Contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670)237-8000 for any additional information. (PR)

Rough weather seen until the weekend

A northwest to northeast swell will produce hazardous surf across the Marianas and a high surf advisory remains in effect through Friday night.

Also, a small craft advisory remains in effect through Saturday night.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a northwest swell will combine with building northeast swell to produce hazardous surf and a high risk of rip currents along north and east facing reefs the next few days.

There is a high risk of rip currents through Friday night along north facing reefs. Expect hazardous surf of 8 to 10 feet today, Wednesday, falling to hazardous at 7 to 9 feet Wednesday night and Thursday.

Surf may fall below hazardous levels Thursday night or Friday. The risk of rip currents will be high. Along east facing reefs, the risk of rip currents will be high for the next several days. Surf will likely become hazardous at 12 feet or more by Thursday.

Northeast winds of 20 to 25

knots will rise to 25 to 30 knots today until tonight. Winds will remain fresh to strong through the week.

Combined seas of 9 to 10 feet will build to 11 to 13 feet by Thursday and 12 to 14 feet on Friday. Highest seas will be east of the islands.

The public is advised to avoid venturing out near reef lines along north and east facing reefs. If you become caught in a rip current, remain calm. Stay afloat while waiting for help. If you have to swim out of a rip current, swim parallel to shore, then back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly.

These winds and seas will be hazardous to operators of small craft. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions. (Saipan Tribune)

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TO BE CONSIDERED, PLEASE SUBMIT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS BY APRIL 3, 2020 TO THE DCRM OFFICE IN MIDDLE ROAD, GUALO RAI OR BY EMAIL TO MALLORY MUÑA AT MMUNA@DCRM.GOV.MP OR COLLEEN FLORES AT CFLORES@DCRM.GOV.MP

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Unclaimed veteran given final salute



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Honor guards bring casket of the late Army veteran Robert McCausland to his final resting place at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi last Feb. 11.

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, along with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the

Veteran Affairs Office, had a special burial known as the “Final Salute” for an unclaimed veteran at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi last Feb. 11.

The late Robert McCaus-

land passed away on Sept. 28, 2018, and his body spent the next 18 months at the morgue of the Commonwealth Health Center until yesterday.

One of McCausland’s

friend, Dave Blake, remembers him as someone who loved his privacy, enjoyed debating with close friends, and a very loving, caring person.

“He didn’t want to be around many people and he enjoyed arguing, but he was good,” said Blake.

Another close friend who is an Air Force veteran remembers that McCausland used to talk a lot about his son who played football. He remembers McCausland as an ac-

countant at the Bobby Cadillac restaurant for a few years.

He said some of those who knew McCausland were able to pay their respects yesterday.

Blake stated that this was a complex situation since McCausland passed away without a will, instructions, and no court documents, highlighting the need for everyone to be prepared and write a will and instructions on what to do after you’ve passed away because you’ll never know when it’s your time.

VAO executive officer Stanley Iakopo, who was also at the funeral, said, “On behalf of the governor and lieutenant governor, I would like to extend their deep sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of the late veteran, Robert McCausland.”

Along with his staff, Iakopo also lauded the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Borja Funeral Homes for making the funeral arrangements.

Parole board asks to be excluded from austerity

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Parole is requesting the CNMI government to exclude it from the upcoming austerity regime, saying it would prevent them from carrying out their duties properly.

According to board chair Ramon “RB” Camacho, the board will be asking Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in a letter today to ask him to exclude

the board from austerity because they are already short-staffed as it is and is tasked to watch over 35 of some of the CNMI’s most notorious criminals who are out on parole.

“We currently have only one officer and the chief parole officer. We do side checks, we also check with the employers. On top of that, we still do routine night checks after lessons so it’s never-ending security. We check up on them on the weekends and the holidays [too], so it’s really hard but we’re very motivated because this is our job to keep the community safe,” he said.

According to chief parole officer Nick Reyes, he and one other officer look after 35 parolees, with over 20 of them employed, taking counseling, and other court-required classes and lessons.

If the division goes into austerity as planned, their hours would be reduced from 80 hours to 64 and zero overtime, which could affect their rou-

tine checkups and that could possibly threaten the safety of community members.

Some of the recent convicts who are out on parole include Shawn Appleby, Ezra Deleon Guerrero, and George Langu.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Appleby was sentenced to a 40-year prison term for killing Byung Ok Suh in November 1996 after robbing the victim’s store, Chalan Market, in San Antonio.

Appleby bolted from prison on Oct. 10, 1999, with two other inmates. He was later sentenced to a year in prison, on top of his 40-year sentence.

Deleon Guerrero was sentenced to 30 years in prison term for killing Jae Soung Shim in May 2009 during a robbery at the victim’s store, New Star Market, in Tanapag. The victim was repeatedly hit with a *tangan-tangan* stick to the head numerous times.

Langu was sentenced to a 10-year prison term for breaking into a house and raping his 16-year-old neighbor.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP20-CHCC/DOHS-OD2A-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 27, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM

“OFFICE SPACE LEASE”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **RFP’s** TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP20-CHCC/PDMP-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 27, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM

“PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING
PROGRAM SOFTWARE SYSTEM”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **RFP’s** TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Northern Marianas College
Procurement and Property Management

P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6804 • Fax: (670) 234-1270
www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMC IFB 20-0001

GROUND CARE & LANDSCAPING SERVICES

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of Campus Grounds Care & Landscaping Services for the As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. O, commencing Monday, January 27, 2020 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.** Email request may be sent to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Pre-bid conference is scheduled for February 04th, 2020 at 09:00am, Bldg P. College Conference, attendance is strongly recommended.

Bid Submissions are due no later than 10:00 a.m., February 12, 2020, at Northern Marianas College, Procurement Office, Bldg O, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan, MP 96950.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement Management Office

The Northern Marianas College is a Land Grant Institution accredited by the Senior College and University Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 25, 2020
5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center Building
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

- A. Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of 1/23/2020 meeting minutes
 5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)
- B. Public Hearings:**
 1. **Conditional Use Application #2019-4562:** Success International Corporation dba New Hope Rock Quarry is proposing to occupy a lot to operate its Mining use. This use is classified as “Mining” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 011 C 04 in As Matuis village. This area is zoned as Industrial.
- C. Communication**
 1. Office of the Public Auditor
 2. Saipan Northern Islands Legislative Delegation (“SNILD”) Proposed Saipan Zoning Law of 2019
 3. Re-appointment and request for nominees
- D. Old Business**
 1. Job Vacancy Announcement for Zoning Administrator position
 2. Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 regulation
- E. New Business**
 1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)
 2. FY 2021 Budget and Annual Report
 3. ITB 19-ZB-134 “Vehicle purchase for Enforcement & Operations”
- F. Executive (Closed) Session**
- G. Miscellaneous**
 1. Other Matters
 2. Announcements
 - a. **Directive No. 2020-002** “Implementation of 64-hour work schedule and cost containment measures”
 3. Next Meeting
- H. Adjournment**

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Acting Zoning Administrator, Yubert Alepuyo, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for
Success International Corporation dba
New Hope Rock Quarry

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Success International Corporation dba New Hope Rock Quarry is proposing to operate an Industrial Use (Mining). This use is classified as “Industrial” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 011 C 04 in As Matuis village. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: February 25, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 24, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

Cybersecurity operation nears launch

The CNMI's first cybersecurity firm is on target to launch in the second quarter of 2020.

Cybersecurity is a growing and in-demand market segment within the technology industry and Latte Training Academy Inc. and InteliSecure Inc. have partnered to bring this new economic driver to the CNMI. However, the industry has suffered from a shortage of qualified professionals and this endeavor is being looked at as a way to retain talent on the islands.

"What we recognized is that once professionals enter the tech industry, they realize rapid career progression or the benefit of being in a high demand marketplace. With the U.S. tech industry growing the way it is and with a push to in-source these positions back to the [United States], the CNMI is well positioned to bring these jobs to the CNMI," said LTA president Juan-Carlos Benitez.

The Latte Training Academy, Inc has offered CompTIA certifications for the past four years and developed its Marianas Emerging Enterprise Training program, which is centered on bringing new emerging industries

to the CNMI.

"The MEET program has proven to be an exceptional framework. LTA leverages its network of professionals who clearly understand the CNMI's economy to market directly to specific companies. The program targets mid-sized companies within targeted industry clusters with at least five years of annual growth. For the pilot program, we tapped former Commerce Secretary Michael Ada, who resides in Colorado where there is a large tech base, to meet with InteliSecure, Inc. in November 2019. A month later, their chief financial officer and vice-presidents were on-island to assess the CNMI as an operation center and in January of 2020, they secured the space and are currently renovating," said Benitez.

The MEET program partners private firms with the Latte Training Academy to provide the specific training to fulfill its operational needs. It requires that participating firms provide starting wages at least 30% higher than the minimum wage, requires promotional opportunities to a minimum of 30% of their CNMI-based employees within two years

and requires that all positions are full-time. Firms can avail of access to a U.S. workforce in the Asia/Pacific time zone, training support services and a competitive landscape that minimizes poaching of its workforce from competing firms.

"As the inaugural participant of this program, we are extremely excited with the progress that InteliSecure is making toward launching their Marianas operations. The Latte Training Academy, Inc. is currently running an Information Technology Fundamentals certification course and will be launching its second cohort in late February to fill the employment demand for InteliSecure," said LTA board member Ed Arriola Jr.

Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman has expressed full support of the organization and its programs.

"The tech industry is something that leaves no environmental footprint and brings sustainable jobs, which are not impacted by the external dynamics that impact our other industries. It also offers our younger workforce a career path that was not otherwise available in the CNMI," said Rabauliman. (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-20-009

WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers' compensation insurance and administration for CUC's employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) Original and Six (6) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-20-009, Workers' Compensation & Administration", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than February 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 31, 2020** to **Manny B. Sablan**, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to **Vivian Santos**, CUC Human Resource Manager, via email vivian.santos@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLON
Purchasing Administrator



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Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The movie business goes global with Oscar wins for 'Parasite'

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, criticized for a lack of diversity in Oscar nominations, helped change that narrative Sunday by celebrating the South Korean comedy-thriller "Parasite." The film took home four awards, including best picture—a first for a non-English-language film.

As in movies, real-life redemption is a wonderful thing.

But there was something else notable about the big night for "Parasite": Hollywood's growing embrace of globalization. Entertainment is a worldwide industry. Just look at how important the international box office has become. China is now the second-largest film market in the world after the U.S., with about \$10 billion in revenue in 2018. Soon it likely will surpass the U.S.

As "Parasite" and other notable films have shown, the international film business is more than a source of box office for Hollywood. Talent and storytelling come from many corners of the planet. Foreign films are no longer just relegated to art-house releases.

"Parasite" was released in major movie houses and cineplexes across North America. The result? Since it came out in October, the film has taken in \$35.5 million in North America. Around the world, its box office take has reached \$165 million. There's a universality to the class-struggle dynamic portrayed in "Parasite" that resonates far beyond South Korea. And there's a universality to good filmmaking. "We never write to represent our countries," Bong said after winning the Oscar for original screenplay.

What's another lesson of "Parasite"? That industries flourish when they expand their reach beyond borders. The NBA is a prime example. Players from Europe, Latin America, China and elsewhere have made the NBA better, and consequently made the NBA more money. When the NBA All-Star Game takes place in Chicago on Feb. 16, one of the two captains will be Giannis Antetokounmpo, who was born in Greece to Nigerian parents. A while back, the NFL began playing games in London, and more recently, Mexico City.

Businesses that don't think global risk becoming irrelevant. The same is true, by the way, for cities such as Chicago.

Until now, Hollywood's relationship with the rest of the world has been largely one-way. Distributing "Star Wars" or "Titanic" to markets in Asia, Europe and the rest of the globe meant more revenue for U.S.-based studios.

Here's hoping "Parasite" is a sign that Hollywood's thinking has forever changed—because great movies can come from anywhere.

(c)2020 Chicago Tribune



Anti-Asian panic is spreading like a virus

By TAMARA VENIT-SHELTON
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The images out of Wuhan are chilling. In the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak, health officials in white hazmat suits hover over the body of a victim. Crowds of ordinary people, their faces obscured by surgical masks, try to carry on as normal.

As the United States, Australia, Russia, Japan and many other countries announce travel restrictions to and from China, it was only a matter of time before paranoia about coronavirus and Asians would spread as well.

On Jan. 30, Los Angeles officials warned that a fake letter circulating on Facebook and email falsely claimed that five people in Carson, a city south of downtown Los Angeles, had contracted coronavirus and named five local businesses in an Asian neighborhood as being connected to the outbreak.

The hoax letter is just one instance of fear-mongering directed at Asian communities that is playing out on social media. An Instagram post by UC Berkeley's health services offered reassurance that anti-Asian xenophobia was a "common" and "normal" reaction to concerns about contracting coronavirus (it was deleted after alumni and students voiced outrage). Meanwhile, students across California have reported feeling that fear of the virus made them targets for anti-Asian comments and open hostility.

Racial profiling for coronavirus isn't confined to California or the United States. Asians in Europe—including Chinese but also Vietnamese and Cambodians—have reported coronavirus-inspired acts of harassment in schools and playgrounds as well as on public transportation. Chinese shop owners in Italy and France have noted a decline in their business as fearful customers keep their distance.

The Italian coast guard quarantined 7,000 passengers and crew aboard a cruise ship off the coast near Rome when a traveler from Hong Kong developed flu-like symptoms. It was, indeed, nothing but the flu, but locals at the port staged a protest demanding the testing of all 750 Chinese on the ship. Rising incidents of anti-Asian abuse have been reported in Australia and Canada as well.

In the United States, racially charged panic over the virus echoes a long history of anti-Asian racism that identified Asian Americans and their businesses and neighborhoods as vectors for epidemic disease.

Beginning in the 1870s, as immigration from China to the United States surged, public health officials often wrongly

linked American Chinatowns to outbreaks of leprosy, smallpox, bubonic plague and tuberculosis.

In San Francisco, the Department of Public Health had a practice of conducting medical investigations that quarantined Chinatown and restricted its inhabitants' freedoms.

Yet, the Chinese had no higher rates of mortality than any other working-class community in San Francisco.

Motivated by fear and racism, authorities sometimes simultaneously quarantined Asian American neighborhoods and denied them essential medical services. For example, the Chinese were shut out of San Francisco's public hospitals during a citywide outbreak of

bubonic plague in 1900. In response, they organized their own private hospital, staffed by a combination of Western-trained medical scientists and traditional Chinese herbalists. In 1918, as the global influenza pandemic crested, Japanese immigrants were similarly excluded from mainstream medical care in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Medical scapegoating and discriminatory policing of Asian-owned businesses and homes were routine in the 19th century. Unfortunately, it is all too easy for these attitudes to be reawakened, particularly during health crises.

In the 1980s, for instance, Los Angeles County health inspectors targeted Chinese

restaurants displaying roasted Peking ducks in their windows. The inspectors claimed, without evidence, that the ducks harbored salmonella and other bacteria.

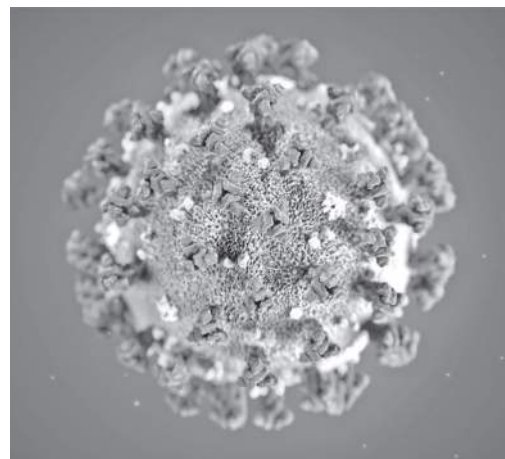
As epidemiologists look to the future, they anticipate that many global epidemics will emanate from less developed parts of the world, including Asia.

Successful containment will depend on broad, public support for scientists and health officials, working to disseminate accurate information about how viruses spread.

Effectively fighting contagions will also require fighting fears driven by racist impulses. The quarantines of Chinatowns in the 19th century didn't suppress disease or improve public health but did legitimize discrimination against entire populations.

Today, as state agencies and school authorities issue warnings and reassurances, they should be sensitive to this historical pattern. What's needed is evidenced-based, easily understood information that defuses public anxieties without provoking race-based panic and deepening inequalities.

Tamara Venit-Shelton is an associate professor of history at Claremont McKenna College and author of *Herbs and Roots: A History of Chinese Doctors in the American Medical Marketplace*.



EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Sagun coronavirus

I coronavirus na sagu esta gaige gi todû i tanu`. Mas ñahlalañg ke regulat na sagu lau gai piniligrû `an inadite i malañgu ya hinatme hanum i gofesña. Poresu na pre-sisu inadahe!

Dispues, pa`gu na semana doku` mafanana`an Norovirus ni umatataka estomagun tautau. Haf` ya ti mamapau i primet sagu kahulu` otrû ni parehu dañosu.

Megai esta mantinatme yan dimalas giya China. Puede kay-adan ñaihôn sa` tinahuñg fasilidat hinemlu` para `an mit pot mit man-tinatme nu este na sagu. Maseha ti mafattu mage mauleg u guaha sattun na inadahe gi hinemlu unu yan todû.

Suetdu

Gaige gi gaseta na 15-mit na empleau guine gumagana suetdun popble. I dichu kuestion: Haf` na planu guaha para uma-adel-anta monedan familia para u inataha sapet na kondision halum guma`?

Gi mismu tiempu man-atotpe hit yan kuentus “mysterity” `sino planun para uma-utut oran cho`chu` papa` gi 64 oras. Kom-prendiyun i planu lau naseguru haf` magahet kondision fondû gi kaha. Makat gi familia maribahan esta ha` suetdun popble ni maresisibe pa`gu.

Gaige giya hita uttimu disposision gi makubren setbisiun pub-liku. Puede ti u fattu papa` gi `nai debi ta sakrifisia hinemlu` yan edukasion tautau-ta siha.

Na para todû kareran hiyuñg Marianas. Na setbi i benefisiun Internet dimas de in` atotga umusa i inipus maribaha na fondun publiku. Usa guine gi adelantun tautau-ta siha!

Makat gi katkuet manera! Para in` fan pasesehu `nai manadan tautau manliliñu` ti inaligau niha na sapet?

Katma

`An katma i ha`ane hu rikonose haf` i mensahe gi tatten natañga na silensiu. Guiya este finu` man-amku` i manrikohe mañglu para mattiempu.

Mientras tantu sige hu akanteha asunto-ta siha yan haf` na dis-posision man-mapetsige. Ti todû hu embrasa lau i disision para minaleg unu yan todû.

Sapet para 15-mit na empleau ni gumagana suetdun popble guine. Makat na chanda este na pinadese gi halum guma` fa-

milia. Hu komprende i asunto kontodû i appenas fondû para este na nesessidat.

Kuantu giya hamyu chumage hanum grifu para katsun es-tomagumu desde oga`an? In` chage umusune sinetnan choda yan asiga pot ayu ha` guaha gi kusina. Mit gracias para i ma-ñainan mame pot fitme na sinestenen yan minesñgun gi mat-tiriun linala` popble.

Hinanau

Sessu mandaña` ham gi fina` tininu `nai duru i grasiosu na kon-betsasion yan chaleg. Lau dispues man-madispone todû i tres mañelu-hu.

I sumen namagof na dinaña`, maliñgu. Megai besis `nai guaguahu ha` namaisa. Maliñgu i konbetsasion yan manñge` na chaleg che`lu.

Hu tuñgu` na guaha `nai mabisitayu` piot `an kulan hagacha`yu` triste. Lau konsuelu i sensian yine`ase` yan sat-tun na inaglofli`e gi halum hame na mañelu. Diariu lokue` hu hahassu siha gi tinayuyot-hu. Gi mismu guaha motibu na mattu este na disposision.

Magahet na manhihot ham na mañelu gi halum todû mattiru. Kontodû umañg `in katdun niyog para i lamasan sena. Ni unu kumuentus pot man-hinalulula yan sopas hinegsa`. Ai nama-gof i agradesiyun na senan popble. Taftaf man-malulug ham gi halum tinaya` mina` in` kemprende linala` popble.

Kariñosa

Un` tiahû sumen kariñosa ni muna` katma yan kontentuyu` gi karerahu` gi hinibenhû. Todû i tiempu kariñosa `an ha adiñgane-yu`. I bosña munana`eyu` pinasensia yan inadahe gi karera-hu.

Magahet na guiya `nai husosoda` konsuelu-hu ginen i motmut na pinasensia yan katma na disposisioña. Ha fanu`eyu` haf` gui-naiya entalu` nana yan patgon. Hu sen agradese maseha ñgai`an `nai umasoda` ham. Mauleg na tiahû.

Un` tiuhû lokue` maseha fina` lanchu `nai sumasaga hana` seguru na mañoçu ham antes de bai`n diñgu gi lemlem tau-tau. Sessu hu fatachuñge umekuñgug haf` finaposña gi tiempun Japones. I difirensia, segun sinañganeña, i mampus i Chapanes rektu gi bandan areglu.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Ina`ayuda

Kau kineni` atulai gi tekin, pininu` ga`ga` yan kinisechan gualu todû i tiempu tana` fan mañañage prohimu-ta. Metgut i sensian dinaña` yan ina`ayuda gi halum tautau-ta kontodû gi bandan es-pirituat tat kumu nobenan familia. Mit gracias!

Tano`hu

Manchagu` tanu` siha hu bisita gi ma`pus na 40 años. Lau tat mas namagof ke `nai tumalag halum i batkun aire giya Saipan sa` mattuyu` tatte gi petlas `nai mafañagu-yu`. Finu` i kanta “chalan iya hame”.

■■■

Tat mas ke freskun mañglu` gi papa` troñkun niyog, katten pajarû gi aire, i bonitu na lemlem tautau yan felis na finagpu` ha`ane giya para`isu. Hu agradese lokue` grasiosu na konbet-sassioin yan famaguon-hu yan nietus(tas) gi minachum atdau. Ma`ug na dinaña` familia!

Famaguon-hu

Dinaña` familia para amotsa `sino sena namagof na inasoda` yan konbetsasion unu yan todû. Mientras sige mañoçu mana oppan lokue` haf` finapus niha guihe na ha`ane.

Mauleg na inetnun `nai ta huñgug asuntun kada patgon yan haye munesessita ayudu. Este na okasion `nai sattun i dos saina ma-ekuñgug haf` asuntun famaguon niha.

I mañan kada unu oppan na keha gi asuntoña. I fatkilu hu agañg dispues para bai ketuñgu haf` nesessidatña. Hu pasensiaye muna` komprende na debi u mapla` sumañgan haf` gaige hinassoña

What do I know about romance on Valentine’s Day? Not much, maybe

When it comes to Valentine’s Day, I’m the last man on earth you’d ask for romantic advice.

Romance? Me?

What could some grizzled OK Boomer possibly know about young love?

Nothing.

Betty and I have been married almost 35 years. I snore. She doesn’t. Sometimes I leave my socks on the bathroom floor. Is that romantic? Not very.

One Valentine’s Day, I took her on impulse to see “Manchester by the Sea,” which I stupidly thought was a love story. It wasn’t. That one was a total disaster. She hasn’t forgotten.

A friend told me about his Valentine’s Day failure: He forgot to make reservations.

They stood in line at one restaurant for an hour, then gave up and stood in line at another place for an hour. They never got a table.

“I could see the joy just draining from her face,” he said.

Where did you end up? Denny’s?

He forgot. But he remembers the look on her face.

You’re better off clicking on all that Valentine’s Day clickbait, to score a table at the hot restaurant, the one with the view, the one with the buzz.

The problem is that on Valentine’s Day, it’s a cattle call. Everybody’s stressed. Crowded and miserable, and that prix fixe tenderloin kept in the purgatory of a warmer won’t set young hearts aflutter.

I did come up with a romantic idea. At least I thought it was romantic. Sadly, my sons thought it too strange.

Invite the young woman to your apartment. Serve her a glass of prosecco. Give her a red rose. Not a dozen, just one nice rose.

Put on music that she likes. Not what you like. Lead her gently to a chair in the kitchen. Ask her to close her eyes and keep them closed, but don’t insist. This isn’t “50 Shades of Grey.” It’s Valentine’s Day.

Now cook for her: pasta carbonara.

There are two rules: Don’t ever add cream. And don’t talk

about yourself.

Talk about her. Talk to her, and don’t talk about you. Ask about her dreams, her problems, her goals. Listen to her, really listen and talk about things you’d like to do together.

As you listen, saute bacon, butter and minced shallots. Just before the pasta is done, pour some pasta water and chicken stock into the pan. Add peas. Grind in plenty of pepper. Simmer and reduce.

Drain the pasta into a bowl. Add egg yolks and mix them. They’ll cook in the heat of the pasta. Add fresh green onion and lots of grated Parmigiana-Reggiano, pour the pan sauce over the pasta. Toss it together.

If you’re lucky, when she opens her eyes, she’ll smile at you.

What’s not romantic about the scent of sauteed bacon and shallots?

Plate the dish, grate on some more cheese. A good red wine, and fine chocolate for dessert. Keep listening to her. She’ll tell you some things if you listen.

Isn’t that romantic?

“No dad,” one of my 20-something guys said. “That’s weird.”

Yeah. I’m weird. Forget it. What do I know about romance?

My problem with trendy Valentine’s Day restaurants is that I’m not interested in buzz. I foolishly select restaurants for the food. I like some of the places the foodies write about—Carrie Nahabedian can cook for me any time—but mostly, I’m just a diner guy.

That’s where I’m sitting right now, at a diner, having some superb fish chowder and writing this column.

There’s an old couple at one table, a really old couple, in their mid-80s. They don’t talk much. He cuts her food. She leans over and says something. His shoulders shake as he laughs. She playfully puts a roll on his plate as if it were some treasure.

A young couple sits to my left. They’re neat and clean but they don’t look like money. He’s wearing a T-shirt and light jacket in this February cold. She’s got on a thin blouse. They look tired.

They don’t look like those couples in clickbait photos of glamorous Valentine’s Day nightclub dates, those young masters of

By JOHN KASS
Chicago Tribune



John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. Readers may send him email at js-kass@chicagotribune.com.

the universe about to conquer the hedge fund and the world.

He’s got beat-up hands, as if he works construction or in a tire shop. They talk about their kids, but I don’t want to hear. He leans forward and puts one of those big broken hands of his on hers. She smiles and says one word: “Honey.”

I look away. It’s not my place to see. It belongs to them. So, I head outside for air.

That old couple in their 80s comes out. She walks on ahead to their car. But the old man, a chunky guy, stops and I ask how long they’ve been married.

“Married? We’re not married,” he said. “We were married 28 years, kids, everything. But we got divorced. It was bad. Hell. We really didn’t like each other.”

Oh.

“But then she got in an accident and broke her neck in two places. And I wanted to help her. I mean, I love her. We hang out now. We’re good friends now.”

You hang out a lot?

“All the time,” he said. “We’re close. It was that broken neck. I had to help. We got close again.”

They drove off and I called Betty about dinner.

“What do you want?” she asked.

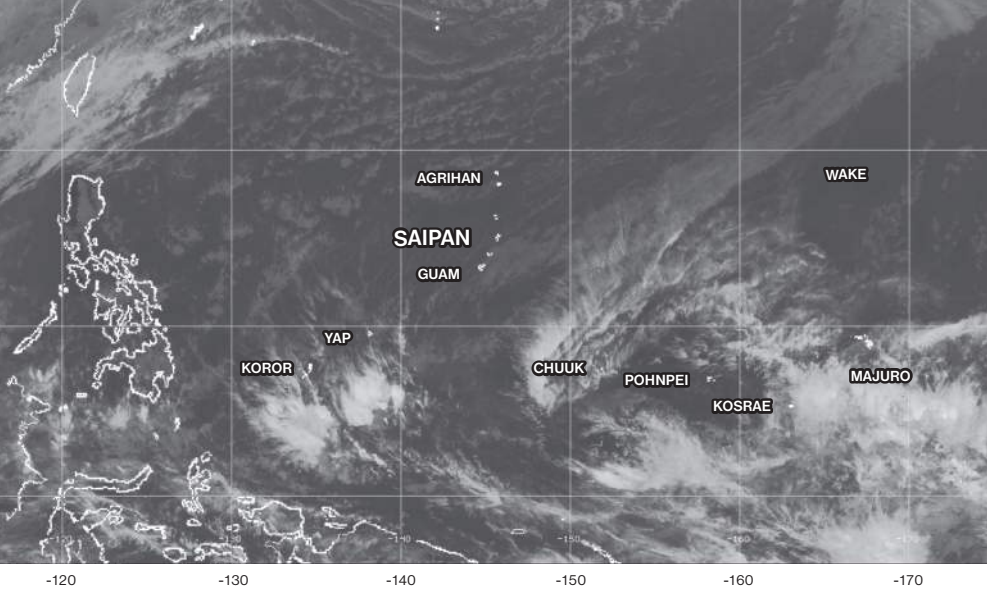
I’m cooking. I’m cooking pasta carbonara, I said.

But first I have to pick up some prosecco.

“Honey,” she said.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Windy. Partly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 30 mph.		Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
84°	75°	86°	75°	86°	75°	86°	75°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:48 AM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The sickly, fragmented shear line currently over Guam will slide south tonight. Overnight sounding shows stable, dry air above 6000ft so any showers that do materialize should be fairly light. Main story will be the increase in northeast winds later today and Wednesday as high pressure builds to the north. Winds lighten up a bit this weekend but still breezy from the east. Rain chances look bleak the next several days as strong subsidence prevails and few if any trade-wind disturbances rotate through. This should come as no surprise since mid February is typically one of the driest parts of the year.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Windy	81° / 75°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Yap	Windy	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Windy	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Windy	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 61°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	55° / 34°	
Hong Kong	Showers	72° / 66°	
Honolulu	Showers	80° / 69°	
London	Partly Cloudy	48° / 39°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	67° / 49°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	90° / 73°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	86° / 68°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 73°	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	44° / 39°	
Osaka	Rain	64° / 52°	
Paris	Showers	52° / 45°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	55° / 48°	
Rome	Showers	61° / 48°	
Salem	Showers	67° / 59°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	59° / 45°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	55° / 36°	
Tokyo	Sunny	52° / 36°	
Washington, DC	Showers	59° / 46°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:51 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.39	
10:25 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.89	
4:27 PM	LOW TIDE	0.63	
9:45 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.81	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Thursday	6:42 AM	6:19 PM
Friday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:41 AM	6:20 PM
Sunday	6:41 AM	6:20 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:02 AM	9:22 PM
Thursday	-	9:47 AM	10:21 PM
Friday	-	10:32 AM	11:18 PM
Saturday	-	11:18 AM	-
Sunday	12:16 AM	12:04 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2020							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	OZ623	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4	TW309	11:10am	4:40pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ6243	3:10pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ624	3:30pm	7:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3
TW310	5:40pm	10:15pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:10pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:30pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily				
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
				2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

To my adoring husband Mark and my amazing children,

I am SO very grateful to be blessed with this amazing life with each of you. I give thanks for your love and presence each day. And with each day, my heart is full. I LOVE YOU...to infinity and beyond! #Toveslove

**Love Always,
Your Queen**

To my Baby Girl Sue,

You make me happy, happier than I'll ever be. Sometimes I lose focus, because you are always on my mind. You are the gravy to my mashed potatoes. The cheese to my macaroni. The sides to my big value meal. Basically, life would be bland without YOU.
Love, Gelo.

To my Baba!

Thank you for all your ridiculousness and craziness that makes life exciting and funny! Happy Valentine's Day! And looking forward to more heartfelt, lovable, laughable days with you! Thank you for being you!
Love, Angie

Dear Mom,

Thank you for everything that you have done for me. I love and appreciate you very much!
Happy Valentine's Day!
Andrew

Baba,

My world is a happier place when I'm with you. "You are the kindest soul who makes my life beautiful and loved."
Happy Valentine's Day! Make sure you know where we eating.
Love, Chay

**To my sweet handsome boys
Iver James & Colin,**

I love you with all my heart and I thank God everyday for both of you. You are the best gifts I have ever received and I am beyond blessed and grateful to have you both.

**I love you,
Mommy**

To my Big Baby Hammah,

Life has been crazy amazing with you. You turned my whole world around the moment you walked in. You never fail to make me smile and you always keep me at my happiest! Today, I just want to remind you that I love you so much with all of my heart, and that every single day that passes, my love for you grows and becomes even stronger. My world is complete with you by side. I thank God for blessing me with you. Thank you for loving me for who I am. I promise to love you and be by your side through it all, baby.
Happy love day baby. Mwuah.

**Love,
Your wifey,
Rizamae**

Ma,

Happy Valentine's Day!
We're so blessed to have you and we love you very much.
**Love Cancan, CJ,
Chris & Joy**

Lorraine,

You already know how much I love you. You are my rock and I thank the lord every day for having you in my life. Thank you for being a wonderful mother to our kids. Continue to be kind and caring.
Happy anniversary and happy Valentine's Day. I am excited for all the love, joy, and happiness in the years ahead of us.
From, JR

**My dear Kenyu
(Dick Guintu),**

When people ask me what is the best thing about you, I say nothing. I don't want them to fall in love with you. 😊
Happy Valentine's Day!
**Love, Mommy
(Maricar Guintu)**

To my darling Charlie,

Thank you for being my ever consistent valentine for the past 12 years. Your love is my support, my encouragement and inspiration. Being married to you is my greatest privilege. As we promised each other every day:
"Hindi kita iiwan, hindi kita ipagpapalit, hindi kita dadagdagan."
Always and forever.
Donna

Dearest Mommy,

It's certainly true that you don't find love but it finds you, and love found me, in you.
Happy Valentine's Day!
**Love Always,
Daddy Cesar**

Edna Grace Nisola,

God loves me so much because he gave me someone who is so awesome, hardworking, smart, talented, pretty, cute, funny, and best of all loves God as much as I do. You are such a blessing to me and I can't thank God enough for letting me share my life with you, I look forward to our growth together and making many more memories with you forever. I love you so, so much.
**Happy Valentines!
Love,
Christian De Jose**

To our dearest Mama Dorie and Papa Mart,

We thank God for you. You are the best, most wonderful and most important in our hearts. You are always there for us, supporting, loving, caring, crying and praying for us. Our welfare is always your concern and you always go above and beyond for us your children. We love you with all our hearts.
Happy Day of Love!
**Ulen, Mike, Colin, James,
Berto, Liza, Clara, Bou
& Hachi**

To The Love of My Life Jen

I love you wholeheartedly with the love of the lord, which is the greatest love of all! You're the greatest blessing that I have ever received and I will always cherish you. We've come a long way to get where we are now, and I wouldn't have it any other way. We grew together, we learned together, and we will continue to fight the good fight of faith together. As it says in Mark 10:9, you're stick with me and me with you! Our relationship is like no other because God is in the center and i know we will make sure it will stay that way. (1 John 4:16)
P.S. Happy Monthsary (2 days ago)
**Love Always,
Your Cat Lover**

To Steven,

I love you all very much. In all the ways you know and in all the ways you couldn't possibly.
Happy Valentine's day love.
Always, Bonita

To my wife and my beloved children,

Every day you work hard to bring up our family. I'm happy to be your wife and the mother of our children. My kids may not always be there, but in my heart, thoughts and prayers they are my precious gift.
**Love,
Honey Bear
Piglet**

I am so blessed and thankful GOD gave me a loving, supportive and GOD fearing husband. Thank you for always making me feel loved, cared for and special. I really appreciate everything you do to make life easier for me and make me always smile.
I LOVE YOU honey **FERNAN**
Love, Honey Malou

To the love of my life, JR Salas

Thank you for being an amazing dad to our kiddos Aiden and Alina. You are the family clown and you always make sure to put a smile on our faces. I hope this Valentine's Day continues to bring you more love and happiness. Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Anniversary and cheers to the 17 years of moments we've had together and to many, many, many more years of love to look forward to.
From, Lorraine

Since day one, your laugh is my favorite among everything else. Thank you for staying the way you are. I may not be good at making a letter, but my actions speak louder than anything else. I love you everyday
Joanelyn Velasco and will always be here for you.
Love, Biba

Aaron,

I would pause Grey's Anatomy for you and that's saying something. I love you today, tomorrow, and every day that we're together.
Happy Valentine's Day,
love!
Xoxo, Jus

Kevin,

The past three years have been crazy but you stood by me and loved me in ways I can't even imagine. I love you and I look forward to next 70+ years together.
**Love,
Aly BB**

To Jay Budoy,

You've changed my life for the better... or for the worst! Anyway, I thank God that you're my partner in life - for better or for worst. Together, we make a great team. I love you like a fat kid loves cake! Happy Valentine's Day Hon!
Love, Vk

To Angelo Joseph,

You have the purest heart and the sweetest personality. You never fail to make me smile; it is the little things you do that makes me happy. I appreciate you with all my heart. Happy Valentine's Day Love!
-Sue Ann

Dear love ❤️

Thank you for all the memories we've made together. I am forever grateful for all that you've done for me, and for the continuous support. We're still young so let's make every second count.
I love you and
Happy Valentine's Day!!!
-n.c ❤️

Happy Valentine's Day
Tatay Beb!
We love you so much!
**Love Cancan, CJ,
& Mommy Beb**

Dear Liz,

To me, you are the perfect example of a partner should be. Loving, caring, supportive, and understanding. I've shared all of my secrets with you, and now you must tell me yours... How in the world do you put up with me!? Haha.

I love you Cuddle Bug!
Happy Valentine's Day! ❤️

-Stinky Bug

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and
Forever*

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Pamper yourself this Valentine's Day weekend

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

This year, Valentine's Day will fall on a Friday, giving people so many chances to plan something ahead and to spend some time committing to self-care because the more you take care of yourself, chances are you will have more love to share and give.

And what better way to celebrate the sweetness of Valentine's than being slathered with chocolate! It is raining chocolates at Aqua Resort Club Spa as their "Chocolate Spa Treat" for CNMI residents kicked off on the first day of this month. There are two treats to choose from. First, submit yourself to "Chocolate Essential Oil Massage" that entails a 60-minute full body massage with chocolate essence sweet almond oil. Go relax, detoxify and get glowing skin for only \$60.

Another option is to go for the "Chocolate Full Spa Treatment." It is a 55-minute full body massage with rich melt-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Natural Nail Spa at their new location on Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

ed chocolate and essential oil, followed by a full body wrap and 15-minute head massage. It is described as euphoric, improves blood circulation, releases stress, and costs only \$90 for CNMI residents.

Aqua Resort Spa is located in San Roque. For more information and reservation, call (670) 322-1234. Gift certificates are also available.

See PAMPER on Next Page

GRAND OPENING CEREMONY!

FEBRUARY 15, 2020 | 3-5PM

THRILLS ON WHEELS HAS FINALLY ARRIVED ON SAIPAN!

FIRST EVER INDOOR ROLLER SKATING RINK

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See PAMPER on Next Page



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SKATING RINK | TRAMPOLINE | ARCADES | SNACK BAR | PARTY ROOM

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WINNERS RESIDENCE

PAMPER

From Page 12

Love is in the air at Natural Nail Spa and you can choose among their many Valentine's Day promo packages that come with tender loving care and a complimentary gift.

For only \$68, package A includes an exfoliating body scrub paired with a 90-minute body massage.

Package B is their sweet escape manicure and pedicure with paraffin wax and gel polish for only \$78.

Package C is their charcoal

detox pedicure paired with a hydrating/antiaging facial or detox/purifying facial for only \$78.

Package D is their classic manicure and pedicure with gel polish that goes with a two-hour body massage for only \$98.

All packages available only by appointment. Natural Nail Spa is located along Middle Road in Gualo Rai. For more information, call (670)233-6245.

The new kid on the block, Apinan's Royal Thai Emporium or A.R.T.E. in San Jose, offers authentic Thai relaxing massages. Their classic Thai

massages cost \$25 for 60 minutes, \$40 for 90 minutes and \$50 for 120 minutes.

Oil massage starts at \$25 for 60 minutes, \$40 for 90 minutes and \$50 for 120 minutes. A combination of oil and scrub massage starts at \$25 for 60 minutes, \$40 for 90 minutes and \$50 for 120 minutes.

All-time favorite Thai foot massage starts at \$25 for 60 minutes, \$40 for 90 minutes and \$50 for 120 minutes.

For loyal customers, get regular massage four times and get the next one for free. For more information, call (670) 234-2783 and (670) 783-2502 or email: ph3w1rd@gmail.com / wfburrell0148@gmail.com.



Apinan's Royal Thai Emporium or A.R.T.E. in San Jose offers authentic Thai massages.

BEA CABRERA



BEA CABRERA

Enjoy Thai, oil, body scrub and foot massages everyday at Apinan's Royal Thai Emporium.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The interior of Natural Nail Spa provides a relaxing ambiance to its guests.

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you check in.



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Gift ideas for the 'techies' in your life

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerapapan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

More than just giving and receiving flowers and cute-stuff on Valentine's Day, people have moved to more practical gifts that do not only show you care but are sensible enough that it can be used not only during Valentine's Day but everyday.

Here are some tech acces-



The Billboard Portable Charger and Sound Disc Wireless available at Triple J Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store in Chalan Kanoa. PHOTOS BY BEA CABRERA



sories that are great gift ideas for him and her that will not break the bank.

The **Billboard portable charger** is the best option to keep your phones, laptops, or tablets always powered. It's super sleek and slim design allows you to take it on beach trips around Saipan, whether you go to Lau Lau Bay, Tank Beach or Forbidden Island. This portable charger

For more information, call (670)234-1444

will allow you to always have "juice" on hand every time your gadget needs a power boost. Cost is only \$16.95.

Sound Disc Wireless allows people bring their favorite music wherever they go. The design is stylish and has excellent sound quality because of its superior HD sound. Cost is only \$16.95.



The Bose Soundsport Pulse is available at Joeten Superstore in San Jose.



Ubio Labs Wireless is available at Joeten Superstore in San Jose.

Both gadgets are available at **Triple J Payless SuperFresh & Truckload** store in Chalan Kanoa. For more information, call (670)234-1444

The **Bose Soundsport Pulse** is a perfect gadget to supplement your active lifestyle. More than just producing high definition sound, it comes with a highly accurate built-in heart rate sensor to take your exercise routine to the next level. It is everything you need while having long or short runs along Beach Road. Cost is only \$199.99.

Ubio Labs Wireless enjoy decluttering messy wires and cables as this gadget allows you to charge cable-free. You can take it anywhere—just put your phone on

For more information, call (670) 234-2678

the dock and it automatically charges the phone so you can do other things. Cost is only \$58.55. Both gadgets are available at the **Joeten Superstore** in San Jose. For more information, call



Native Union Cable is a tangle-free and mess-free cable. Available at Hot Deals in Garapan.

(670) 234-2678

Native Union Cable is no ordinary cable. It's modern design and cloth-like material fits the modern lifestyle as the wire does not become messy and entangled with other wires. It is water-resistant and functional. Costs is only \$16.

Invisible Shield Glass Curve Elite protects your phone 24/7; it prevents im-

Continued on Next Page



Maximize work or school projects with **Lenovo Ideapad** laptop available at Sherwood at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai.

VALENTINE'S DAY Special

ORDER NOW!

flowers and gifts for your special someone



COME IN AND SEE OUR SELECTION OF VALENTINE'S GIFTS!

Arrangement of Three, Half Dozen & One Dozen Roses.
Large Selection of Stuffed Toys, Wine Baskets,
Fruit, Chocolates and more.

Design Florist

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Cabrera Center, Beach Road, Garapan • For more information, please call 234-5593 or 235-8572

From Page 14

pacts and scratches. The curve has been designed to fit the contours of your

phone. It is shock absorbent and touch sensitive. Cost is only \$12. These

For more information, call (670) 233-2758

gadgets are available at **Hot Deals** in Garapan.

For more information, call (670) 233-2758

The **Lenovo Ideapad laptop** is great for first-time laptop users. Its high-perfor-

mance notebook feature is great for students and serious gamers. It was made to be functional, stylish, and light and costs only \$719.

The **Samsung Galaxy Tab A** is always portable and comfortable. You can do school or office work on

For more information, call (670) 235-1470 and (670) 235-1472 or email kncorp7@hotmail.com.

it. Built-in apps are available. The full metal body and stylish design makes it an "eye

candy" but does not sacrifice durability. Cost is only \$269.99. Both gadgets are available at **Sherwood** at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai. For more information, call (670) 235-1470 and (670) 235-1472 or email kncorp7@hotmail.com.

Guard your phone against scratches and falls with the Invisible Shield Glass Curve Elite available at Hot Deals in Garapan.



The Samsung Galaxy Tab A is available at Sherwood located at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai.

Happy Valentine's Day

\$99 / Couple
5:30pm - 9:00pm

1st Course - Appetizer
Salmon Ceviche

2nd Course - Soup
Beef Consomme

3rd Course - Salad
Ceasar Salad in Parmesan Cheese Crust

4th Course - Main Entree
Surf & Turf
(Grilled Steak & Baked Lobster)
Bread & Butter

5th Course - Dessert
Valentine's Day Special Dessert

Coffee or Tea

ALL YOU CAN EAT & DRINK

\$30

SEAFOOD & BBQ dinner buffet

Open Everyday 5:30pm - 9:00pm
(Last Order 8:30pm)

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VALENTINE'S DAY

FEBRUARY
14-15

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With Valentine's Day just two days away and, with love in the air, here are some ideas to help you celebrate the day of hearts with the special person or people in your life.

Head to **McDonald's** for a special breakfast meant for lovers and everyone else. Instead of the usual sausage, try breakfast with something different and new: the Mc-Chicken Biscuit and Chicken McGriddle.

Valentine's day won't be complete without flowers. **Design Florist**, located at the Cabrera Center on Beach Road in Garapan, has a selec-

For more information call, (670) 23405593 or (670) 235-8572

tion of Valentine's Day gifts that you can choose from. One dozen, half dozen, three red roses arrangements are available. You can be creative with your gift baskets with their large selection of stuffed toys, wine, fruits, chocolates and more. The store is open from Monday to Saturday, from 8:30am to 6pm, and Sunday from 9am to 12pm. For more information call, (670) 23405593 or (670) 235-8572

Let you love bloom and give a gift from **Blossoms Floral Shop**, located at J.E.T. Building in Gualo Rai, for that

For more information, call (670) 235-7271

that lasting impression. See their many Valentine's Day flower arrangements, goodie baskets, assortment of lus-

Love is in the air

cious chocolates, collection of bath & body products, balloons, stuffed animals, and other specialty gifts. They are open from Monday to Saturday from 8:30am to 6pm and Sunday from 8:30am to 1pm. For more information, call (670) 235-7271.

Before going on a date, make sure to get your car clean inside out for that memorable ride. **Best Car Wash** in Gualo Rai offers a car wash discount on Valentine's Day. For big vehicles and sedan, it is \$2 off regular price; for buses, it's \$5 off regular price.

Alamo, Enterprise, and National wants you to go places for the whole month of February with discounted vehicles for rent. You can

For more information, call Saipan International Airport branch at (670) 288-4400, Grandvrio branch at (670) 233-8339 and Garapan branch at (670) 233-0110

rent a Toyota Corolla or a Toyota Yaris for only \$39/day or \$99 for three days. If you plan to bring the entire family or group of friends, get a Toyota Sienna for only \$79 a day or \$199 for three days or a Nissan Rogue for only \$49 a day or \$129 for three days. All rates are inclusive of CDW insurance, taxes and guaranteed no hidden charges. For more information, call Saipan International Airport branch

at (670) 288-4400, Grandvrio branch at (670) 233-8339 and Garapan branch at (670) 233-0110

Put on your roller skates and have a unique date at the **International Roller Skates**, located at Winners Residence, Aetna Road in San Antonio. Have fun going around the skating rink, en-

For more information, call (670) 235-2560 or (670) 235-3313

joy jumping on trampolines, play arcade games, or hang out at the snack bar and party room. The grand opening is on Feb. 15, 2020 with special performances from K-Pop bands direct from Korea. For more information, call (670) 235-2560 or (670) 235-3313

Triple J gives triple love with their Valentine's Day Specials—meals that are good for two—starting today until Feb. 16, 2020. Enjoy two orders of soup of the day, two glasses of house wine, two medallion combo plates, baby back ribs or grilled salmon, four side items and two2 mini desserts at **Tony Roma's** for only \$85.

Go Italian for dinner at **Capricciosa** with delicious lobster, Neapolitan spaghetti, two orders of minestrone soup, two glasses of sparkling wine, and blueberry ice cream pizza for only \$65.

Enjoy dining by the beach at **Surf Club** with 16 oz. T-Bone steak, six pieces of shrimps, two orders of soup

of the day, two baked potatoes and two glasses of sparkling wine.

Seafood awaits lovers at **Bubba Gump**. For only \$65, enjoy a seafood feast that includes Mama Blue's fried shrimp, 9 oz. Certifies Angus Beef New York Striploin with succulent grilled shrimp and mashed potatoes, onion rings, New England Clam chowder, Alabama brownie, and a glass of cabernet sauvignon.

For sweet lovers, **Great Harvest Bread Co.** has éclair and cream puffs with blueberry or vanilla fillings. It is \$1.25 each, \$3.50 for three pieces, \$6 for six pieces and \$10 for a dozen.

Marianas Creations Café celebrates happy hour the whole day on Friday with \$1 off on all alcoholic drinks. Have a round or two and see the works of art by local artists on display.

Have a fantastic local staycation at **Saipan Vegas Golf Resort & Slot Club** located on Middle Road in Chalan Lau Lau. For only \$35 a night, enjoy the style and comfort of rooms with free WiFi and cable TV. This promo package includes a welcome drink at Bamboo Bar, \$25 free play vouchers at the Saipan Vegas play room, free round of golf at Saipan Country Club and complimentary coffee and donut at Winchell's. If couples book a room on Feb. 14 for two nights, the second night is free.

Grandvrio Resort will celebrate Valentine's Day in a grand way, starting with a candlelit dinner from 5:30pm to 9pm at its **Dolphin Restaurant**. For only \$99, have a glass of wine, salmon ceviche for appetizer, beef consommé soup, Caesar salad

For reservations, call (670) 237-2527 or email food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

in parmesan cheese crust, and surf & turf with grilled steak and baked lobster and wash down their Valentine's Day dessert with coffee or tea. If you want to go for all-you-can-eat seafood and barbecue dinner with unlimited drinks, go to **Tropicana Restaurant** from 5:30pm to 9pm. For reservations, call (670) 237-2527 or email food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

Docomo Pacific wants you to bundle your love with

For more information, call 688CARE or 488CARE or go to docomopacific.com

their phone and SmartWatch package. Get a Samsung Galaxy S10 plus Samsung Galaxy Active Watch 2 44 MM starting at \$37.10 a month. For more information, call 688CARE or 488CARE or go to docomopacific.com

Getting new appliances is always a good idea, especially this Valentine's. **Media Electric's** Valentine's Day promotion offers 10% to 20% off on Midea aircon, AUX aircon, freezer, refrigerator, washer, LED items, rice cooker, electric fan, solar light, smart TV

32" to 55", faucets, hardware, home appliances, rechargeable speakers and more.

For more information, call (670) 234-0680 or (670) 285-0680

Installment payment is available. For more information, call (670) 234-0680 or (670) 285-0680.

Your one-stop shop, **Taro Sue Corp.**, along Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Garapan, will have a Valentine's Day sale

For more information, call (670) 234-5417

on Feb. 14 to 15, with 20% to 50% discount on selected items. They are open from Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5:30pm. For more information, call (670) 234-5417

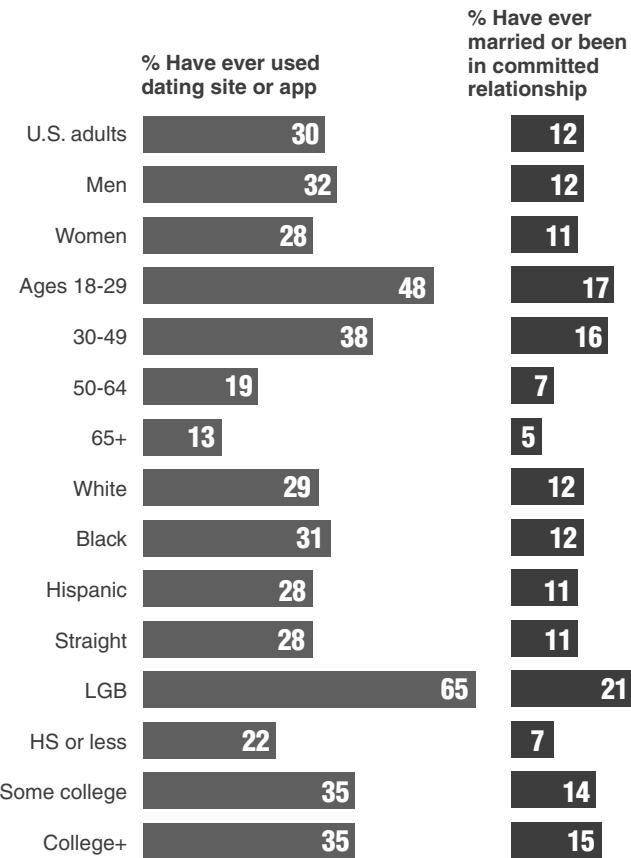
Joeten Shopping Center is running a Valentine's Day weeklong sale from Feb. 8 to 14. Enjoy 25% off on men's shirts and pants, ladies dress, blouses, lingerie and skirts, frames and phot albums, houseware, rugs and linens, hairdryers and curlers, toys, handbags and wallets. Other items such as shoes and sandals, Seiko and Casio watches and cosmetics and fragrances are 20% off.

For more information, call (670)234-6446

There are more discounts on wine, beer, whiskey, chicken leg, Ace of Diamond tuna, Hoosier Pride Smoked picnic ham, butane gas and market and organic items. Visit four branches in Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman. For more information, call (670)234-6446 (**Bea Cabrera**)

Finding true love online

Younger adults – as well as those who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual – are especially likely to use online dating sites or apps



Source: Pew Research Center
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Have a Valentine's Day date at home

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Spending Valentine's Day at home can be liberating. Dodge the Valentine's Day rush and, instead, spend this day showing love to the most important person or people in your life in your own home. Make this day special by cooking local favorites and, since wine makes food taste better, pair them with your favorite bottle.

No fuss and easy to make, chicken *kelaguen* is perfect with white wines like Sauvignon Blanc or Chardonnay. Sauvignon Blanc is perfect for white meat with herbs or spices just like the *kelaguen* and is perfect in warm climate region such as the CNMI. Chardonnay matches the tanginess that come from the lemon sauce of this dish.

Chicken Kelaguen

Recipe by Annie Merfalen

- 1 small rotisserie chicken
- 6 stalks green onions
- 1 1/2 tablespoons lemon powder plus 3 tablespoons water (or use the juice of

- 1 large lemon)
- 2 teaspoons salt (more or less, to taste)
- Hot pepper, optional
- Freshly grated coconut (unsweetened), optional

1. Debone the chicken; shred or cut into small pieces (you can use a food processor to roughly chop the chicken).
2. Thinly slice the green onions then add it to the chicken.
3. Add the lemon powder, water, salt and pepper to the bowl of chicken; mix to combine. Taste; adjust seasoning if required.
4. Stir in the optional grated coconut.
5. Serve with sweet flour titiyas

Special occasions on island always entails doing barbecue. Whether it is beef or pork, only red wine will do. Cabernet is a perfect match. If you spice up your dish with a *finadine* sauce, then go for Zinfandel, Shiraz or Malbec wines.

BBQ Short Ribs

By Reuben Olivas

- 1 cup of Kikkoman soy sauce

- 1 cup of apple cider vinegar
- 1/2 to 1 onion sliced very thin
- 6 cloves of garlic minced
- Black pepper to taste
- Beef short ribs, depending on the number of persons; generally 1/2 lb per person.

1. Mix the ingredients either by hand or blender.
2. Pour marinade over ribs in a container and coat well.
3. Place covered container in the refrigerator or cooler for at least two hours or overnight.
4. Grill the ribs, basting them with the marinade to keep them moist.
5. Because these ribs are thin, they will not take too long to cook. These are juicy and delicious right off.

Have *pika-pika* like shrimp patties while having a romantic conversation and wash it down with a sparkling wine because anything fried goes well with it. If you'd like a dipping sauce to add more flavor to your patties, pair it with a Sauvignon or Pinot Blanc.

See HAVE on Page 18

Say it with *flowers* and then some

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The longstanding tradition of giving flowers for family and friends on Valentine's Day was first introduced in the 18th century by Charles II of Sweden. People started attaching specific meanings to it, making it possible to have an entire connection and understanding by either giving or receiving flowers. In whatever form, size, or color, flowers have come to symbolize not just love and commitment but also beauty, happiness, forgiveness, and sympathy, to name a few.

Amy Alano, manager of Island Flowers & Novelties on Beach Road in San Jose, said that red roses still top the list of requested flowers during Valentine's Day. "Red roses are still our bestseller during Valentine's Day. ... On Saipan, this special occasion is not only celebrated by lovers but by everyone," she said. "Over the years, I've also seen parents buy flowers and gifts for their child who is in kindergarten and elementary. I've seen people buy flowers for their siblings, cousins, co-worker, and even



Orders of 3, 6, or a dozen red roses are available at Island Flowers & Novelties located on Beach Road in San Jose. **BEA CABRERA.**

best friend. Personally, I look forward to this day because, when a customer walks in, they are just full of joy to express their love through flowers and the mood for gift-giving is contagious."

For inquiries, call Island Flowers & Novelties at (670)234-8383 (670)287-6279 (670) 4845666 or email islandflowersandnovelties@gmail.com.

New Paradise Flower Shop



BEA CABRERA
Aside from flowers, special cards, ribbons and stuffed toys are available at the New Paradise Flower Shop located on Middle Road in Gualo Rai. **BEA CABRERA.**

florist Roberto Barcelo said that aside from flowers, their customers add a "personal touch" by writing love messages or poems in cards,

and adding stuffed toys and chocolates to their bouquets.

"We have ready-made flower arrangements and gift baskets for people who are on-the-go. But sometimes, we get customers that go to the shop with their own ideas in mind. We work on it and produce a unique flower arrangement or gift basket for them to give their loved ones," he said.

"Generally, flowers are given to brighten the day of someone but when people put something more, that arrangement becomes personal, intimate and extra special," he added.

New Paradise Flower Shop is located on Middle Road in Gualo Rai. For inquiries, call (670)233-9875 or (670) 287-9744.

Choosing which flower to give can be as extravagant as a gorgeous posy bought

from a flower shop or a simple arrangement of flowers plucked from your own garden. Tropical flowers around the islands that bloom in your garden or in the wild year-round also have their meanings.

Hibiscus not only tastes delicious in teas and desserts but also symbolizes delicate beauty. White jasmine's fragrance always shows up in bath oils, soap and perfume as it also represent sweet love because of its lingering scent. Due to its bright colors of red, orange, yellow and green, bird of paradise symbolizes joyfulness and magnificence. Since it takes a long time for them to grow, it gives a vibe that exciting and wonderful things are about to happen when they bloom. Sunflower signifies dedicated love, pure thoughts, adoration and commitment.

Blossoms FLORAL SHOP

unlimited expressions for lasting impressions...

*An endless Valentine
Making the day extra special.*

Stop by the shop and see our selections of Valentine flower arrangements, goodie baskets, assortment of luscious chocolates, collection of Bath & Body products, variety of Valentine balloons, stuffed animals and other great specialty gifts.



Located at J.E.T. Building, Gualo Rai • P.O. Box 500070 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Valentine's Shop Hours: Monday to Saturday 8:30am - 6:00pm
SUNDAY 8:30am - 1:00pm

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Fantastic local staycation promotion for the month of February!

Unbelievable room prices starting from \$35 a night with free wi-fi and cable TV!

PROMO PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Free Welcome drink at Bamboo Bar
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A special locals **Valentine's day** couples weekend promo if you book a room on 14th of February for two night, the second night is **FREE!** (See venue for details)

Saipan Vegas Resort is located next to Middle Rd. McDonald's Chalan Laulau.
For further details, call 234-8718

Hop on the ultimate Valentine's Day getaway

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

W hisk your loved one this Valentine's Day weekend to Aqua Resort Club Saipan and enjoy a romantic escape package that is meant to be memorable.

A special offer awaits CNMI residents. For only \$300 (plus 15% occupancy tax), couples are treated to a one-night accommodation in the Deluxe

Garden View room, chilled sparkling wine that will welcome them and a romantic six-course Valentine's Day dinner date at Kevin's - The Prime Rib & Seafood.

Dinner starts with Kevin's Chef Salad and New England Clam Chowder, Blackened Sea Scallop for appetizer, Lime Sherbet to cleanse your palate as you prepare for the main course, a main entrée that consists of a lobster and fillet mignon—a duo of half Maine

lobster and Angus Beef tenderloin with poached pears in wine and Roquefort cheese mousse and William potato. For dessert, enjoy the heart-shaped strawberry roulade, which is strawberry cake roll stuffed with heart-shaped mousse and topped with fresh mint and strawberry compote.

All the ladies will get Ecuadorian long-stemmed roses

for free.

Just add \$20 for unlimited wine and beer for the duration of the dinner, which include Robert Mondavi private selection cabernet sauvignon, Robert Mondavi private selection Chardonnay, sparkling wine, Budweiser, Bud Light, Asahi, and Carlsberg.

According to ARC Marketing & Public Relations manager Victoria S. Barnes, this

For more information and reservations, call (670) 322-1234.

romantic getaway is available on Feb. 14 to Feb. 15, 2020. "We thought we'd give our valued guests and customers, the CNMI residents, a romantic staycation that they will always remember. It is a special deal to reconnect in a peaceful and quiet environment where everything has been planned for you," she said.

"For people who does not want to get the package, they can still dine at The Kevin's and order from the menu list," she added.

Coincidentally, Friday is also Seafood Buffet Night at Costa Terrace Restaurant. "Guests can enjoy gourmet seafood buffet that includes bottomless drinks," said ARC Food & Beverage manager Neil Metran.

Enjoy other special offers at ARC for the whole month

of February: Costa Terrace Restaurant's themed lunch buffet from 11am to 2pm: Chinese cuisine every Monday, Southeast Asian cuisine every Tuesday, Korean cuisine every Wednesday, local Chamolinian cuisine every Thursday, Japanese and Hawaiian fusion every Friday, and international cuisine every Saturday. Local residents' rates is \$17.60 for adults and \$8.80 for child.

Unwind and relax at Vino's Bar from 5:50pm to 8pm and enjoy the unlimited wine with authentic Spanish tapas while being serenaded with live music. Michelle's Bar offers 50% off most beverages and there is a build your own taco station where each taco is only \$1.50.

For more information and reservations, call (670) 322-1234.



ARC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan

Valentine's Day

ROMANTIC ESCAPE PACKAGE

Treat that special someone to a romantic Valentine's Day Getaway at Aqua Resort Club Saipan

First... Check in to our Deluxe Garden View Room, where you'll be welcomed with a Complimentary Bottle of Sparkling Wine

Relax | Lounge in the Pool | Enjoy Happy Hour

Then... Indulge in a Romantic 6-Course Valentine's Day Dinner for Two at Kevin's - The Prime Rib & Seafood

Take it further... Call us in advance to book an additional Chocolate Spa Treatment or Couples Massage at the Aqua Resort Club Spa

SPECIAL OFFER FOR ALL CNMI RESIDENTS

\$300

+ 15% Occupancy Tax
*\$321.00 Inclusive of all taxes

Package Includes:

- *1 Night Accommodation for Two in our Deluxe Garden View Room
- *Complimentary Bottle of Sparkling Wine
- *Romantic 6-Course Valentine's Day Dinner for Two at Kevin's - The Prime Rib & Seafood

-Offer available February 14, 2020 - February 15, 2020
-Offer may not be combined with other discounts or special offers
-Advance booking and reservations required
-Special offer pricing is available to CNMI Residents only
-Based on Availability

KEVIN'S
The Prime Rib & Seafood

Please call (670) 322-1234 to book your package today

HAVE

From Page 16

Shrimp Patties

Recipe by Annie and Hannah Merfalen

- 1 cup thinly sliced green beans
- 2 cups peas
- 1 cup chopped onions
- 3 cups corn kernels
- 4 cups shrimp, chopped
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 2 cans evaporated milk
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons baking powder
- 5 tablespoons dashida seasoning
- 1 teaspoon Accent
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- Vegetable oil, for frying

1. Heat the oil in a large frying pan. To test the heat, use the tip of a wooden spoon and dip it into the oil. If little bubbles start to form around the wood, then the oil is hot and ready.

2. While you're waiting for the oil to heat up, mix all of the ingredients (except for the vegetable oil, of course) in a large bowl.

3. Drop batter by the spoonful—about 1½ tablespoons each—into the hot oil and fry until golden brown.

4. Drain on paper towels and serve warm.

Ready for dessert? *Golfan Apai Lemmai* goes well with Riesling or Chardonnay. These types of wine are high in acidity that it will cut through the sweetness of this dish.

Golfan Apai Lemmai

Recipe by Dr. Judy Flores

- 1 large (3 to 5 lb) breadfruit
- 2 coconuts (milk extracted or a 12-ounce can of coconut milk may be substituted)
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 to 3 tablespoons sugar (optional)
- Water

1. Peel the breadfruit and cut into serving-sized pieces. Place in pot large enough to fit everything, with space on top to allow for boiling the coconut milk to bubble up.

2. Mix coconut milk and salt to taste, and add sugar if desired. Pour over the vegetables, so that everything is covered, but visible.

3. Bring to a boil, then cover with a lid and drop heat to low. When the mixture is appan and the vegetables are firm but soft, the dish is ready to serve.

Business



Attorney General William Barr, left, arrives to speak, next to Assistant Attorney General John Demers and U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia Byung "BJay" Pak, right, during a news conference, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020, at the Justice Department in Washington. AP

US: Chinese military stole masses of Americans' data

WASHINGTON (AP)—Four members of the Chinese military have been charged with breaking into the computer networks of the Equifax credit reporting agency and stealing the personal information of tens of millions of Americans, the Justice Department said Monday, blaming Beijing for one of the largest hacks in history to target consumer data.

The hackers in the 2017 breach stole the personal information of roughly 145 million Americans, collecting names, addresses, Social Security and driver's license numbers and other data stored in the company's databases. The intrusion damaged the company's reputation and underscored China's increasingly aggressive and sophisticated intelligence-gathering methods.

"The scale of the theft was staggering," Attorney General William Barr said Monday in announcing the indictment.

"This theft not only caused significant financial damage to Equifax, but invaded the privacy of many millions of Americans, and imposed substantial costs and burdens on them as they have had to take measures to protect against identity theft."

The case is the latest U.S. accusation against Chinese hackers suspected of breaching networks of American corporations, including steel manufacturers, a hotel chain and a health insurer. It comes as the Trump administration has warned against what it sees as the growing political and economic influence of China, and efforts by Beijing to collect data for financial and intelligence purposes and to steal research and innovation.

The indictment arrives at a delicate time in relations between Washington and Beijing. Even as President Donald Trump points to a preliminary trade pact with China as evi-

dence of his ability to work with the Communist government, other members of his administration have been warning against cybersecurity and surveillance risks posed by China, especially as the tech giant Huawei seeks to become part of new, high-speed 5G wireless networks across the globe.

Experts and U.S. officials say the Equifax theft is consistent with the Chinese government's interest in accumulating as much information about Americans as possible.

The data can be used by China to target U.S. government officials and ordinary citizens, including possible spies, and to find weaknesses and vulnerabilities that can be exploited—such as for purposes of blackmail. The FBI has not seen that happen yet in this case, said Deputy Director David Bowdich, though he said it "doesn't mean it will or will not happen in the future."

fense Infrastructure, or JEDI, will store and process vast amounts of classified data, allowing the U.S. military to improve communications with soldiers on the battlefield and use artificial intelligence to speed up its war planning and fighting capabilities. The Pentagon was preparing to announce its decision between finalists Amazon and Microsoft when Trump publicly waded into the fray in July. (PR)

Trump's \$4.8 trillion budget proposal revisits rejected cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump unveiled a \$4.8 trillion election year budget plan on Monday that recycles deep, previously

rejected cuts to domestic programs like food stamps, Medicaid, and housing as the recipe for wrestling the federal budget back into balance. Trump's fiscal 2021 plan promises the government's deficit will crest above \$1 trillion only for the current budget year before steadily decreasing to more manageable levels, but only by relying on optimistic economic projections, dramatically scaled-back military operations overseas, and proposed cuts to agency budgets that run directly opposite to two previous budget deals signed by Trump. The budget "sets the course for a future of continued American dominance and prosperity," Trump said in a message accompanying the document.

Nation

Gunman dead, 2 officers hurt in shooting at an AK Walmart

FORREST CITY, Ark. (AP)—Two police officers were wounded and a gunman was killed Monday morning in an exchange of gunfire at a Walmart store in eastern Arkansas, authorities said.

Forrest City Police Chief Deon Lee said one of the officers was taken to a hospital about 45 miles (70 kilometers) to the east in Memphis where he was in surgery, and the initial prognosis is "he's going to be OK."

The officers responded to the Forrest City Walmart after someone called police to report a man who was making threats and was "kind of talking out of his head," Lee said at a news conference Monday afternoon. Arkansas State Police Spokesman Bill Sadler said local authorities have identified the suspect as Bobby Joe Gibbs, 40, of Forrest City, though the state crime lab has yet not confirmed his identity.

Lee identified the injured officers as Lt. Eric Varner and Detective Eugene Watlington. Both are assigned to the criminal investigation department and neither was wearing a bullet-resistant vest, Lee said.

The mayor heaped praise on the officers.

"Due to their heroism and

quick response, no civilians were injured," Forrest City Mayor Cedric Williams said.

Walmart spokesman Scott Pope said the company was helping with the police investigation. Walmart is based in



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Bentonville, Arkansas. Once the Arkansas State Police Criminal Investigation Division completes its investigation of the shooting, it will forward the case file to the local prosecutor to review the officers' use of deadly force.

Tammy Priddy, 57, works at Simmons Eye Center in the Walmart. She said she was preparing patient records for the day when she heard eight shots. She said she hid under a counter in the lab until the gunshots stopped.

"The first two shots kind of startled me, and then a

coworker came in and said it was gunfire," Priddy said.

She and a coworker ran from the building and officers outside the Walmart ordered her to get as far away from the building as possible. She was not injured.

"I was too afraid to think of anything except to get to safety," she said. "We kept our minds straight to where we were safe and we were able to get to safety."

Police formed a perimeter with yellow crime scene tape around the Walmart parking lot after the shooting. Police cars with flashing lights blocked roads to the store. The store was closed and employees were sent home. A small strip mall and two gas stations saw no business Monday afternoon, as they were within the police perimeter.

Mary Martin, who said she was Gibbs' aunt, went to the Walmart after she heard about the shooting. She said Gibbs didn't have a job, but had previously worked as a DJ.

"He was a good person. He loved his family," she said.

When asked about the description of Gibbs "talking out of his head" at the store, Martin responded: "That doesn't sound like Bobby."



ACROSS THE NATION

Texas officer charged with manslaughter in fatal shooting

BELTON, Texas (AP)—A Central Texas police officer was charged Monday with manslaughter for the fatal shooting of an unarmed man during a traffic stop, officials said. Temple Officer Carmen DeCruz was charged with the second-degree felony in the Dec. 2 shooting of Michael Dean, Bell County District Attorney Henry Garza said in a statement. His bond was set at \$500,000. He was placed on paid administrative leave after the shooting. If convicted of the charge, DeCruz could face two to 20 years in prison. Police in Temple, a city of 76,000 people about 70 miles (112 kilometers) northeast of Austin, have said little about the shooting and consistently referred questions to the Texas Rangers, who submitted the findings that led to the charge. Dean was black, while jail booking records list DeCruz as American Indian.

No charges in police shooting of man who livestreamed chase

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—No charges will be filed against five police officers who fatally shot a man who livestreamed himself being chased by police, then got out of his car and threatened officers with a knife, a Minnesota prosecutor announced Monday. Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman said the officers from the Minneapolis suburbs of Edina and Richfield were justified in using deadly force against Brian Quinones-Rosario in Sep-

tember because the 30-year-old man threatened them with a knife and refused to drop it. His younger brother said at the time that Quinones had been having suicidal thoughts. Quinones' wife, Ashley Quinones, reacted angrily to the news and posted a series of profanity-laced messages on Facebook. In one, she wrote in all capital letters: "False reports, false statements, and the ultimate cover up."

Jury being chosen for trial of man charged with killing 8

HERNANDO, Miss. (AP)—Jury selection started Monday in north Mississippi for the death penalty trial of a man accused of killing eight people on the other end of the state in May 2017. Willie Cory Godbolt, now 37, said "I'm sorry" while a reporter was recording him after the shootings in south Mississippi's Lincoln County. The dead included a sheriff's deputy and Godbolt's mother-in-law. Jurors were being chosen at the DeSoto County Courthouse in Hernando, which is near Memphis, Tennessee. They will be taken about 285 miles (460 kilometers) south to hear the trial at a courthouse in Magnolia, which is near Lincoln County. Godbolt has pleaded not guilty to four counts of capital murder, four counts of murder, one count of attempted murder, two counts of kidnapping and one count of armed robbery. He has remained in custody since his arrest on May 28, 2017, hours after the shootings. One of his attorneys has said Godbolt is unlikely to use an insanity defense at trial.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Amazon wants to question Trump over losing \$10B contract bid

Amazon wants President Donald Trump to submit to questioning over the tech company's losing bid for a \$10 billion military contract. The Pentagon awarded the cloud computing project to Microsoft in October. Amazon later sued, arguing that Trump's interference and bias against the company harmed Amazon's chances. Amazon was considered an early front-runner for a project that Pentagon officials have described as critical to advancing the U.S. military's technological advantage over adversaries. The project, known as Joint Enterprise De-

Asia

China virus death toll at 1,016

BEIJING (AP)—China's daily death toll from a new virus topped 100 for the first time and pushed the total past 1,000 dead, authorities said Tuesday after leader Xi Jinping visited a health center to rally public morale amid little sign the contagion is abating.

Though more offices and stores in China were reopening after the extended Lunar New Year break, many people appear to be staying home. Public health authorities are closely monitoring whether workers' returning to cities and businesses resuming worsens the spread of the virus.

In a bid to boost morale, Xi was featured on state broadcaster CCTV's main news report Tuesday night visiting a community health center in Beijing and expressing confidence in the "war against the disease."

The country's president and leader of the ruling Communist Party was shown wearing a surgical mask and having his temperature taken before expressing his thanks to health workers on behalf of the party and government. "We will

most definitely win this people's war," Xi said.

Xi's appearance comes amid questioning of the government's handling of the crisis, particularly the failure of local officials in the worst-hit city of Wuhan to clarify the extent of the crisis. Public anger has been inflamed over the death of a young doctor from the virus who had earlier been threatened along with seven others by police for warning online of the potential for a major outbreak as early as December.

Xi paid his respects to health workers, but much of his message was focused on calling for citizens to follow the party's dictates and aimed at minimizing the potentially massive economic impact of the outbreak.

"The fundamentals of China's long-term economic development remain unchanged and the impact of the novel coronavirus epidemic on the economy is short-lived," Xi was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency.

Xi called for "greater efforts to minimize the impact of the

epidemic on the economy" and for attention to be paid to "preventing large-scale layoffs," in a likely nod to the precarious situation of Chinese workers on the fringes of the economy with little security and few benefits.

The virus outbreak has become the latest political challenge for Xi, who despite accruing more political power to himself than any Chinese leader since Mao Zedong, has struggled to handle crises on multiple fronts, including a sharply slowing domestic economy, the trade with the U.S. and push-back on Chinese increasingly aggressive foreign policies.

The National Health Commission said in its daily update 108 deaths had been reported over the previous 24 hours, increasing the total to 1,016 deaths in mainland China since the illnesses began appearing in December. The total is well beyond the toll of the 2002-03 outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, which is caused by a different coronavirus related to the current pathogen.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Thai government mourns dead in soldier's shooting rampage

NAKHON RATCHASIMA, Thailand (AP)—Thailand's government and civil servants were asked to dress in black Tuesday to mourn the dead in a soldier's shooting rampage in a northeastern city where a shopping mall that was the main scene of the tragedy said it will reopen to the public. A Buddhist ceremony will mark the reopening Thursday of the Terminal 21 Korat mall, building department administrator Amnuayphorn Sankong said. Sgt. Maj. Jakrapanth Thomma, 31, killed 29 people over several hours Saturday and Sunday before security forces shot him dead at the airport-themed mall in Nakhon Ratchasima. He was said to be angered at a land deal brokered by his commander's mother-in-law. Both were among his victims. The death toll surpassed Thailand's last major attack on civilians, a 2015 bombing at a shrine in Bangkok killing 20 people that was allegedly carried out by human traffickers in retaliation for a crackdown on their network.

Suicide bombing near military academy in Kabul kills 6

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber targeting a military academy in

the Afghan capital on Tuesday killed at least six people, including two civilians and four military personnel, the Interior Ministry said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing in Kabul, but both the Taliban and militants from the Islamic State group regularly stage attacks in the city, targeting Afghan forces. Along with the six killed, 12 other people, including five civilians, were wounded in the attack, said Nasrat Rahimi, the Interior Ministry spokesman. The attack happened at a police checkpoint near the entrance to the Marshal Fahim Military Academy, located on the outskirts of a western Kabul neighborhood, he said. Local TV channels showed images of Afghan security forces blocking off the main road leading to the blast site from far away.

Rohingya boat capsizes in Bay of Bengal; at least 16 dead

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—An overcrowded boat carrying about 125 Rohingya refugees from Bangladeshi camps sank early Tuesday in the Bay of Bengal, leaving at least 16 dead, Bangladeshi officials said Tuesday. The coast guard, navy divers and other rescuers recovered the bodies of 14 women, one child and a man after the wooden

boat capsized off St. Martin's Island, the top elected official on the island told The Associated Press. Noor Ahmed told AP by phone from the scene that some 62 refugees on the boat survived. They were wooed by traffickers to get on the boat from various points as it was heading for Malaysia, he said.

Philippine govt asks court to shut down leading TV network

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government's chief lawyer asked the Supreme Court on Monday to shut down the country's largest TV network by revoking its operating franchises because of alleged constitutional violations, in a move critics called an attempt to muzzle the media. President Rodrigo Duterte has repeatedly attacked ABS-CBN Corp., along with at least two other news agencies, for making critical reports about him, including his crackdown on illegal drugs that has left thousands of mostly poor drug suspects dead. Solicitor-General Jose Calida said he filed the petition against the TV network and its subsidiary, ABS-CBN Convergence Inc., for abusing its franchises and violating a constitutional prohibition on foreign investment in Philippine media. ABS-CBN denied the allegations.

World

Locust outbreak widens, as UN warns of 'major shock'



In this photo taken Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020, young desert locusts that have not yet grown wings jump in the air as they are approached, as a visiting delegation from the Food and Agriculture Organization observes them, in the desert near Garowe, in the semi-autonomous Puntland region of Somalia.

AP

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Uganda scrambled to respond to the arrival of the biggest locust outbreak that parts of East Africa have seen in decades, while the United Nations warned Monday that "we simply cannot afford another major shock" to an already vulnerable region.

An emergency government meeting hours after the locusts were spotted inside Uganda on Sunday decided to deploy military forces to help with ground-based pesticide spraying, while two planes for aerial spraying will arrive as soon as possible, a statement said. Aerial spraying is considered the only effective control.

The swarms of billions of locusts have been destroying crops in Kenya, which hasn't seen such an outbreak in 70 years, as well as Somalia and Ethiopia, which haven't seen this in a quarter-century. The insects have exploited favorable wet conditions after unusually heavy rains, and experts say climate change is expected to bring more of the same.

Keith Cressman, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's senior locust forecasting officer, said Kenya has received "waves and waves of swarms" since the beginning of the year from the Horn of Africa, and "over the weekend they moved on the side of Mount

Kilimanjaro across the border into Tanzania."

"Also over the weekend they moved into northeastern Uganda," he told a news conference at U.N. headquarters in New York. "We're expecting any day they will move across the border into the southeast corner of South Sudan," where another several million people face hunger as the country struggles to emerge from civil war.

A medium-size swarm of locusts can eat the same amount of food as the entire population of Kenya, Cressman said, and "that swarm in one day can eat the same amount of food as everybody here in the tri-state area, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York. So not taking action in time—you can see the consequences."

U.N. officials warn that immediate action is needed before more rainfall in the weeks ahead brings fresh vegetation to feed new generations of locusts. If left unchecked, their numbers could grow up to 500 times before drier weather arrives, they say.

"There is the risk of a catastrophe," U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock told a briefing in New York on Monday, warning that 13 million people already face severe food insecurity—10 million in places affected by

locusts—and the region can't afford another jolt.

Dominique Burgeon, the FAO's emergency and resilience director, warned at the U.N. briefing that another 20 million people in the region are in danger of becoming food insecure.

Without enough aerial spraying to stop the swarms, the locust outbreak could turn into a plague, "and when you have a plague, it takes years to control," Burgeon told The Associated Press last week.

The U.N. has asked for \$76 million in immediate aid. So far just under \$20 million is in hand, including \$10 million released by Lowcock from the U.N. emergency relief fund and \$3.8 million from FAO, officials said. The United States said Monday it has released \$800,000 and the European Union has released 1 million euros.

"The response today is not gonna work, unless there's a big scale-up," Lowcock said.

The locusts are eating the vegetation that supports vibrant herder communities in the region, and Kenyan Ambassador Lazarus Amayo warned of the "inherent risk of communal conflict over pastures."

The outbreak is so severe it might even disrupt the planting of crops in the coming weeks, he said, adding that the locusts "do wanton damage."

Life & Style

'Never happened': Model denies trapping Weinstein accuser

NEW YORK (AP)—In the strongest defense testimony yet, a Mexican model on Monday denied a Harvey Weinstein accuser's claim that she stood by and did nothing while the once-powerful movie mogul sexually assaulted the woman at a Beverly Hills hotel in 2013.

"Never happened," Claudia

Salinas told jurors Monday at Weinstein's rape trial in New York City, forcefully repudiating model Lauren Marie Young's testimony last week.

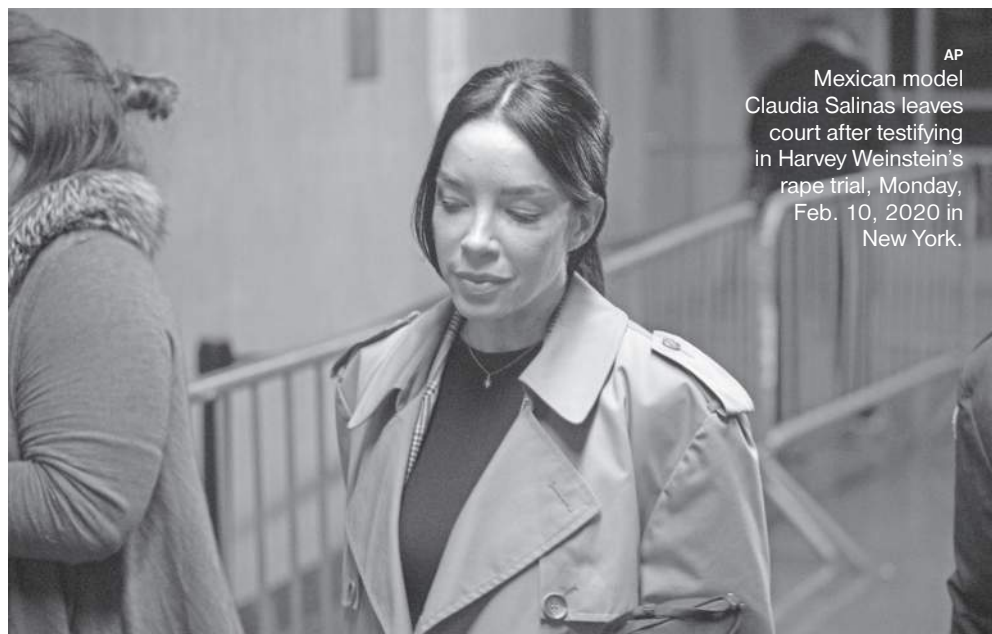
Young testified that Salinas closed the door behind her and Weinstein as they went into the bathroom, where she alleges he stripped off his clothes, grabbed her breast and mastur-

bated. Once it was over, Young said she found Salinas standing outside the bathroom and shot her an evil look before leaving as quickly as she could.

"If I had done that, I would remember that," Salinas testified. "I would never close the door on anybody."

Salinas, now working as a social media influencer, took the witness stand as the defense called witnesses for a third day after more than two weeks of prosecution testimony. Among the prosecution witnesses were six women, including Young, who say the once-powerful Hollywood boss subjected them to vile sexual behavior.

"My name has been used in a disparaging way. Ms. Young's testimony that I've heard in the media is fictitious and flat out untrue," Salinas said in a statement sent to The Associated Press after she testified. "Under no circumstances would I ever



AP
Mexican model
Claudia Salinas leaves
court after testifying
in Harvey Weinstein's
rape trial, Monday,
Feb. 10, 2020 in
New York.

Oscars viewership plunges to record low

NEW YORK (AP)—Without a host or a great deal of pizzazz, ABC's telecast of the Academy Awards reached its smallest audience ever of 23.6 million viewers.

The Nielsen company said Sunday night's audience was down 20 percent from a year ago. The previous low-water mark for the Oscars was the 26.5 million people who watched in 2018.

The Academy Awards honored "Parasite" as best picture. While that made history as the first-ever foreign language film to win the top award, it was clearly not an audience-grabber. The Oscars were held sooner in the year than usual, and that may have prevented the show from building buzz.

"It was too predictable, too white and too boring," said Tom O'Neil, founder of Goldderby.com, a website devoted to awards show news.

The actors who took the four biggest prizes—Joaquin Phoenix, Renée Zellweger, Brad Pitt and Laura Dern—had also

swept previous awards, so there were few surprises and few indelible moments, he said on Monday.

"The only suspense of the evening was for best picture, and the average viewer hadn't seen 'Parasite' or '1917,' so they weren't emotionally invested," O'Neil said.

For the second straight year, the Oscars went hostless, opening with a rousing production number from Janelle Monae and a crisp comic monologue with Steve Martin and Chris Rock. But a handful of critics felt the lack of host was a handicap this year.

Dominic Patten of Deadline said the show "bellowed out for a ringmaster to harness what soon became a lackluster circus."

"One thing a host can do is give the broadcast a shape and a voice when nothing else provides them," wrote James Poniewozik of The New York Times. "And this year's show seemed to feel the vacuum more, turning out a grab bag of emotional high points and perplexing uses of time."

have anything to do with an assault on a human being. This accusation was a vicious attack on my reputation."

The biggest remaining question at the landmark #MeToo trial is whether Weinstein will testify. Weinstein declined to answer a reporter's question about it as he left court on Monday, deferring to lawyer Arthur Aidala who declared: "It was a great day for the defense today."

Weinstein's lawyers say no

decision has been made on whether he will take the stand.

Weinstein, 67, is charged with raping a woman in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and forcibly performing oral sex on a different woman in 2006, but other accusers, such as Young, were called as witnesses as part of a prosecution effort to show he has used the same tactics to victimize many women over the years.

Young's allegations were included in criminal charges

filed against Weinstein in California on Jan. 6, just as his New York case was starting.

Weinstein has maintained any sexual encounters were consensual.

Salinas met Weinstein in 2003, she said, and appeared in his 2009 film "Crossing Over" with Harrison Ford. She said she never had a romantic relationship with Weinstein, adding that he had a "very strong personality" and "at times, he wasn't nice to me."

Rapper Eminem shocks Oscars with performance 17 years late

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Apparently, it's never too late to perform at the Oscars, particularly if you're an Oscar winner named Eminem.

The rapper shocked the crowd at the Dolby Theatre and viewers at home on Sunday night with his performance of "Lose Yourself"—17 years after it won best original song from the movie "8 Mile."

"Look, if you had another shot, another opportunity...

Thanks for having me @TheAcademy. Sorry it took me 18 years to get here," tweeted the rapper, whose real name is Marshall Mathers.

His math was a bit off, though. Barbra Streisand announced "Lose Yourself" as the Oscar winner in 2003. Mathers didn't attend the ceremony to collect his trophy as the songwriter.

Lin-Manuel Miranda introduced a package of clips showing off the use of pop

music in films before a bearded Eminem rose from beneath the stage to perform.

It was one of the most exhilarating moments of the evening. Grammy-winner Billie Eilish, set to perform on the show later, dropped her jaw. Several other audience members were shown rapping along or bobbing to the beat in their seats, including actresses Zazie Beetz and Kelly Marie Tran and musician-actress Janelle

Monae, who opened the show.

Director Martin Scorsese wasn't one of them. He appeared to briefly close his eyes when the cameras found him in the crowd.

Backstage producer Lynette Howell Taylor was especially excited, save for a momentary panic that he didn't have his mic. Afterwards she squealed "We did it! We (expletive) did it."

The rapper got a standing ovation when he finished.

Mom fears teen dating drama will lead to principal's office

DEAR ABBY: I've got a new one for you. My beautiful 16-year-old daughter was interested in a boy her age from school. He was interested in her, too. He told her he wanted to date her, but that he is "polyamorous" and would be dating many girls simultaneously. She told him he's too young to know what he is yet, and he was just using it as an excuse to date multiple girls, and she wasn't interested.

They are part of the same friend group. He has been acting very hurt, pouty and angry. He told a mutual friend he is "deeply hurt" he came out to my daughter and that she won't accept him as he is. I'm worried this will escalate, and he will claim that she shamed him for this.

Abby, I am all about supporting how people self-identify, but this is absolutely ridiculous. What are your thoughts? Is this the new normal? If you refuse to date a boy who dates a ton of other girls simultaneously, does that make you guilty of shaming? Personally, I think it's hilarious that this is the new excuse to be promiscuous and so does she, but I won't be laughing if we get called into the principal's office.

NOT FUNNY IN COLORADO

DEAR NOT FUNNY: That boy is sulking because his pitch didn't sell. Polyamory is the practice of openly engaging in multiple intimate relationships with the consent of ALL the people involved. What that boy may have meant was he enjoys "playing the field." Your daughter didn't dis-

criminate; she showed good common sense. If the principal hears about it, the administrator not only won't call your daughter into the office, I'm pretty sure the person will get a chuckle out of this.

DEAR ABBY: Our brother-in-law made a terrible mistake and is now serving time. My younger sister, "Tess," and I have visited him on a few occasions. We support him by listening and have told him that although he made a horrible mistake, he has to move forward.

Well, something happened that has put a damper on things. This brother-in-law sent Tess a letter, and in it he confessed to her that he had a dream, and she was in it. It wasn't a horrible letter, but I believe it was very inappropriate. He alluded to the fact that it was a sexual dream.

Tess has asked me if she should let our older sister, "Jane," know what her husband wrote. Jane has been through so much, so I told Tess it would not be a good idea to disclose it and add to her misery. Tess says it isn't fair to her to have to swallow this pill for the sake of not making waves. She feels Jane should know what kind of man her husband is. Abby, Jane knows exactly what kind of man she has. Part of what he did wrong was have a cyber affair.

Should Tess inform Jane that her husband has been inappropriate? She now refuses to visit our brother-in-law and has basically written him off. Please give me your opinion and advice.

TORN UP OVER THIS IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR TORN UP: Tess is right. It appears incarceration hasn't discouraged your brother-in-law from writing inappropriate material to inappropriate recipients. Tess should not be discouraged from informing Jane about what her husband has done and showing her the letter, if it is still in her possession. Jane has a right to know. Please respect that Tess needs to distance herself from this troubled individual and his fantasies, and don't encourage her to visit him again. In light of what's happened, I'm not sure you should either.

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LeBron James among 44 US Olympic basketball team finalists

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

LeBron James is considering a return to the Olympics.

James — a two-time gold medalist and three-time Olympian — was among 44 players announced by USA Basketball on Monday as finalists for the team that will play in the Tokyo Games this summer. James played in 2004, 2008 and 2012, helping the U.S. win gold in his most recent two appearances.

The pool includes 19 players who have won a total of 31 gold medals in either Olympic or World Cup competition for the Americans — including nine players who captured the Olympic title for USA Basketball in Rio de Janeiro four years ago.

“I’ve always maintained that equity is important,” USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo told The Associated Press. “And you earn equity by participating. So, we think they’ve earned the right to be named to the overall roster for USA Basketball. It’s pretty elite. It’s a tremendous pot and the good news is they’ve all said they want to play.”

James has played in 68 games for the U.S. national team and has said several times over the past year or so that he is thinking about another Olympics — after sitting out the Rio Games for a variety of reasons. Part of the interest in participating this summer is to have the chance to play for U.S. coach Gregg Popovich of the San Antonio Spurs.

“It’s a possibility,” James said in December.

There will be no tryouts. USA Basketball will pare the list down to a 12-person Olympic team by early June, those decisions to be made by a selection committee — and to be based in part on player availability and health. Training camp will start in early July, potentially as little as two weeks after the end of the NBA Finals. The Olympics start July 24.

“I want to play,” said Portland’s Damian Lillard, one of the finalists. “I think, looking at my career and all the stuff I want to accomplish before it’s over, winning a gold medal at the Olympics is on the list. I was happy to see my name on there, obviously, and hopefully I’ll be a part of the team.”

USA Basketball officials, including Colangelo and Popovich of the San Antonio Spurs, have met with players in a variety of ways over the past several weeks. Some talks have been directly with players, some with their agents,



some with their NBA clubs, sometimes a combination thereof — and, Colangelo noted, there were some instances where players reached out directly to express interest.

If they’re on the list, that means USA Basketball is convinced they want to play.

“I feel very good about the response,” Colangelo said.

Also included in the pool: 15 of the 16 players from the U.S. who are scheduled to play in Sunday’s NBA All-Star Game, and all 12 members of the team that represented the U.S. at last summer’s Basketball World Cup in China — where the Americans managed only a seventh-place finish after roughly three dozen play-

ers who were on the list at some point dropped out along the way.

The nine players still in the mix from the 2016 Olympic team: Sacramento’s Harrison Barnes, Miami’s Jimmy Butler, San Antonio’s DeMar DeRozan, Brooklyn’s Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving, the Los Angeles Clippers’ Paul George, Golden State’s Draymond Green and Klay Thompson, and Toronto’s Kyle Lowry.

Back from the 2012 Olympic champion roster: the Los Angeles Lakers’ James and Anthony Davis, Houston’s James Harden and Russell Westbrook, Cleveland’s Kevin Love and Oklahoma City’s Chris Paul. Back from

the 2008 gold-medal squad: the Lakers’ Dwight Howard.

And those with World Cup or world championship gold medals for USA Basketball, but no Olympic gold to this point: Golden State’s Stephen Curry, Cleveland’s Andre Drummond and Denver’s Mason Plumlee.

James and Paul won Olympic gold at Beijing in 2008, and James was part of the team that won bronze at Athens in 2004. If James joins this team, he will become the second four-time men’s basketball Olympian for the U.S. — joining Carmelo Anthony.

“I’m looking forward to coaching the U.S. Olympic Team, and I’m excited about the potential and possibilities

AP
Miami Heat forward Bam Adebayo, left, dunks the ball as Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, right, looks on during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020.

this team has,” Popovich said.

The Olympics could be a return to the court for players like Durant and Thompson, who have missed the entirety of this NBA season with injuries. Durant’s recovery from Achilles’ surgery is at the point where he’s doing some on-court work and Thompson has said he would like to play if his surgically repaired knee is up to the challenge.

The 25 other players who are finalists for this summer’s team but do not yet have Olympic or World Cup gold for the U.S.: Miami’s Bam Adebayo, San Antonio’s LaMarcus Aldridge, Washington’s Bradley Beal, Phoenix’s Devin Booker, Indiana’s

Malcolm Brogdon, Boston’s Jaylen Brown, Utah’s Mike Conley, the Clippers’ Montrezl Harrell, Brooklyn’s Joe Harris, Philadelphia’s Tobias Harris, Boston’s Gordon Hayward, New Orleans’ Brandon Ingram, the Lakers’ Kyle Kuzma, the Clippers’ Kawhi Leonard, Lillard, Milwaukee’s Brook Lopez, the Lakers’ JaVale McGee, Milwaukee’s Khris Middleton, Utah’s Donovan Mitchell, Indiana’s Victor Oladipo, Boston’s Marcus Smart and Jayson Tatum, Indiana’s Myles Turner, Boston’s Kemba Walker and San Antonio’s Derrick White.

“The reason we have this big roster is a lot of things happen, a lot of variables,” Colangelo said. “And what’s to say what’s going to happen from an injury standpoint between now and June. We don’t know. So we have the rest of the season to monitor, to watch. But when we select our 12, they will be 12 who are absolutely in with all fours.”

Catchings, Jackson headline women’s hoops Hall of Fame class

NEW YORK (AP)—Tamika Catchings, Lauren Jackson and Swin Cash are headed to the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame.

The trio headline the Class of 2020. Joining the three former WNBA stars are Carol Callan (contributor), Carol Stiff (contributor), Sue Donohoe (contributor) and Debbie Brock (veteran player). The seven members will be inducted on June 13.

Catchings was a four-time Olympic gold medalist for the U.S. and also a five-time winner of the WNBA defensive player of the year award. She led the Indiana Fever to their lone title in 2012 and Tennessee to an NCAA championship in 1998.

Jackson helped the Seattle Storm win two championships in the WNBA and was the league’s MVP three times. She also helped Australia win three silver medals and a bronze in the Olympics. The team also won the 2006 World Championship.

Cash won three WNBA championships with Detroit and Seattle. She also won two NCAA titles at UConn.

“I’m humbled and honored to be named in this amazing class,” Cash said in a text to The AP. “Thank you the committee, my family, coaches, teammates, city

of McKeesport and every fan that loves our game and supports it! To be going in with my sis Catch and Lauren — just wow... Blessed.”

Callan has been USA Basketball’s national team director since 1996 and has guided the team to six consecutive Olympic gold medals. She’s currently the President of FIBA Americas and a member of the FIBA Competition Committee.

Stiff is ESPN’s Vice President for Programming and Acquisitions with an emphasis on NCAA women’s basketball, WNBA and other women’s sports.

Donohoe was the NCAA Vice President of Division I basketball from 2003-12. She also was the director of the men’s basketball championship in 2002-03.

Brock was the point guard at Delta State that won three AIAW championships from 1975-77.

The Hall of Fame also plans to honor that the 1980 U.S. Olympic women’s basketball team as the 2020 Trailblazers of the Game. That team didn’t participate in the Olympics because of the American’s boycott of the games. That team included Anne Donovan and Carol Blazejowski and was coached by Sue Gunter with Pat Summitt as an assistant coach.



Source: MLB considering expanding playoffs to 14 teams

NEW YORK (AP)—Major League Baseball is considering expanding the playoffs to nearly half the 30 teams and allowing higher-seeded wild-card teams to choose opponents.

The playoffs would grow from 10 clubs to 14 under the plan, first reported Monday by the New York Post. There would be four wild cards in each league, up from two.

Details were confirmed by a person familiar with the proposal who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because MLB did not authorize any public comments. Another person, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said MLB has been looking at several plans.

Any proposal would have to be negotiated with the players' association. The current collective bargaining agreement runs through the 2021 season.

"Expanding the playoffs in a sensible way is something worth discussing when part of a much more comprehensive conversation about the current state of our game," union head Tony Clark said in a statement.

Only the division winner



AP
In this Oct. 30, 2019, file photo, Washington Nationals starting pitcher Max Scherzer celebrates with the trophy after Game 7 of the baseball World Series against the Houston Astros in Houston.

with the best regular-season record would advance directly

to the Division Series under the plan. The two other division winners and wild-card teams would start in a best-of-three round.

The division winner with the second-best record would choose its opponent from among the three lowest-seeded wild-card teams. The division winner with the third-best record would then get to pick from among the remaining two wild cards. The top

wild card would face whichever team is left over after the division winners make their choices.

The selections would be made on a televised show.

MLB long restricted its postseason to just the pennant winners facing each other in the World Series. Postseason teams doubled to four with the split of each league into two divisions in 1969, then to eight with the realignment to

three divisions and the addition of a wild card in 1995, a year later than planned due to a players' strike.

The postseason reached its current 10 with the addition of a second wild card and a wild-card round in 2012.

A postseason of 14 teams would mean 47% of franchises reach the playoffs, which could cause some clubs not to go into rebuilding mode. The players' association has

criticized teams for what it calls "tanking."

Twelve of the 32 NFL teams (38%) reach the playoffs, along with 16 of 30 in the NBA (53%) and 16 of 31 in the NHL (52%), which expands to 32 franchises next season.

Expanded playoffs would create more content for broadcasters. MLB's contracts with ESPN and Turner run through 2021 and its deal with Fox goes through 2028.

Ex-Blue Jays reliever sues Astros in sign-stealing scandal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former major league pitcher Mike Bolsinger sued the Houston Astros on Monday, claiming their sign-stealing scheme contributed to a poor relief appearance in August 2017 that essentially ended his big league career.

Bolsinger's suit in Los Angeles County Superior Court seeks unspecified damages for interfering with and harming his career. He's also asking that the Astros forfeit their nearly \$30 million in postseason shares from their 2017 World Series title, with the money going to children's charities in Los Angeles and a fund for needy retired players.

According to the suit, Bolsinger, then a reliever with the Toronto Blue Jays, was put into a game at Houston on Aug. 4, 2017, and allowed four runs, four hits and three walks in one-third of an inning in a 16-7 loss. The suit said the right-hander "was immediately terminated and cut from the team, never to return to Major League Baseball again."

He was demoted to Triple-A and hasn't pitched in the major leagues since. He was 0-3 with a 6.31 ERA in 11 appearances with Toronto in 2017. The 32-year-old pitched in Japan in 2018-19,

and is seeking a job with a big league club for this season.

The Astros didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Commissioner Rob Manfred found the Astros broke rules against electronic sign stealing in 2017, including during the postseason. Manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were fired last month.

According to MLB's investigation, the Astros used a video feed to steal opposing teams' signs and then tipped off their batters to off-speed pitches by banging on a garbage can.

According to Bolsinger's lawsuit, graphic designer and web developer Tony Adams wrote a web application to document every instance of banging on a trash can during Astros home games in 2017. He found that the most bangs occurred in that Aug. 4, 2017, game, including on 12 of 29 pitches Bolsinger threw, the lawsuit said.

Hinch told the media that night that it was "not unusual for us to have big nights when we put good at-bats together," according to the lawsuit.

Bolsinger also pitched for the Arizona Diamondbacks and Los Angeles Dodgers in his four-year career, going 8-19 with a 4.92 ERA.

New 'smart mound' can help analyze pitchers' efficiency

FARMINGTON, Conn. (AP)—Central Connecticut pitcher Michael Deleese was throwing fastballs inside the Center for Motion Analysis and wasn't getting much movement on his pitches.

His problem was quickly diagnosed by coaches and scientists looking at data gathered by the instrumented pitching mound from which he was throwing, the electrodes attached to his body and the motion-capture cameras in the lab.

A slight arm angle adjustment and moments later, Deleese's ball was jumping.

"Just a couple little tweaks and my spin rate went up by a few hundred RPMs," the senior said. "It really improved it. That's leaps and bounds from where I was at."

The Center for Motion Analysis at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center is known in the world of kinesiology for its work with athletes, studying how their bodies move and learning how those motions can impact efficiency and injuries.

For a week in January, researchers there conducted a study of pitchers using a new tool, the "smart" mound, developed by a company called Newtforce.

The mound, really an instrumented ramp, measures ground forces generated during each part of a pitch, from wind-up to follow-through.

When linked to the bio-sensors placed on a pitcher's body and the motion-capture cameras at the lab, it provides a powerful new tool for understanding the mechanics of a pitch.

"Pairing these things together is going to give us the most complete understanding of what a pitcher goes through physically," said Matthew Solomito, a managing research engineer at the lab. "We can now measure pitcher efficiency and see what might make a pitcher at greater risk of injury. And if they are at greater risk of injury, what can we do to make them better?"

In Deleese's case, the mound showed something was off with the torque gener-

ated around his plant leg. That was affecting his release.

"When you understand movement, the ground whispers to you," said Randy Sullivan, who runs the Florida Baseball Ranch, which trains elite pitchers and was working with the lab's researchers. "If you understand the anatomy, the ground will tell you what the muscles are doing and with this information, we no longer have to guess."

Part of beta testing the mound is figuring out which variables in the data are most important in figuring out how to adjust a pitcher's form issues, said Kyle Barker, who invented the mound at Newtforce.

The Baseball Ranch gathered 500 data sets from pitchers. Another 20 came to the Connecticut lab, where their force measurements were paired with the motion imaging for a more complete picture.

The Minnesota Twins have leased a smart mound for spring training this year. There are others at Vanderbilt, Arkansas and at the Florida

Baseball Ranch.

"The more data we get, the more we can do with it," said Barker. "We should be able to see some trends in terms of what we're seeing in the force data and the bio-data and perhaps come up with some predictors for things like durability."

Leasing the mound costs between \$30,000 and \$50,000 a year for fees and setup, depending on the length of the lease and what type of institution wants to use it, Barker said.

Barker believes that within five years, most major college programs and major league teams will be using the technology for coaching, injury prevention and even scouting prospects.

"You can compare one pitcher to another," Barker said. "It will show you if there is a form flaw that might make someone a better risk than another prospect."

Deleese said he and other players are also likely to embrace the technology.

"The results are instantaneous," he said. "It's a real advantage."

Middleton, Bledsoe help Bucks beat Kings minus Antetokounmpo



MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Milwaukee Bucks presented Giannis Antetokounmpo a victory as a baby gift.

Khris Middleton and Eric Bledsoe scored 28 points apiece to pace Milwaukee past Sacramento 123-111 on Monday night as the Bucks won without new father Antetokounmpo.

Antetokounmpo, the reigning MVP, missed the game after he and his girlfriend welcomed their first child, which he announced earlier Monday on his Twitter account.

"They are a good team. They are very balanced, they play a really good system," said Kings guard Buddy Hield. "Bledsoe leading the charge tonight, him and Middleton. Giannis was out, but those guys were able to get going. They are tough covers. We got to do a better job just containing them and making things uncomfortable for them but we didn't do that and in the third and fourth quarter and they got it going."

Milwaukee trailed 90-88 after three quarters, but opened the final period with 13 consecutive points as Sacramento missed its first five shots. Bledsoe capped the run with back-to-back 3 pointers to put the Bucks up 101-90.

"We were saying going into the fourth, whoever starts playing defense, starts getting stops is going to take the game away," Bucks center Brook Lopez said. "That's what that group did who was out there at the beginning of fourth. It fueled us and we continued to ride on that through the whole fourth quarter."

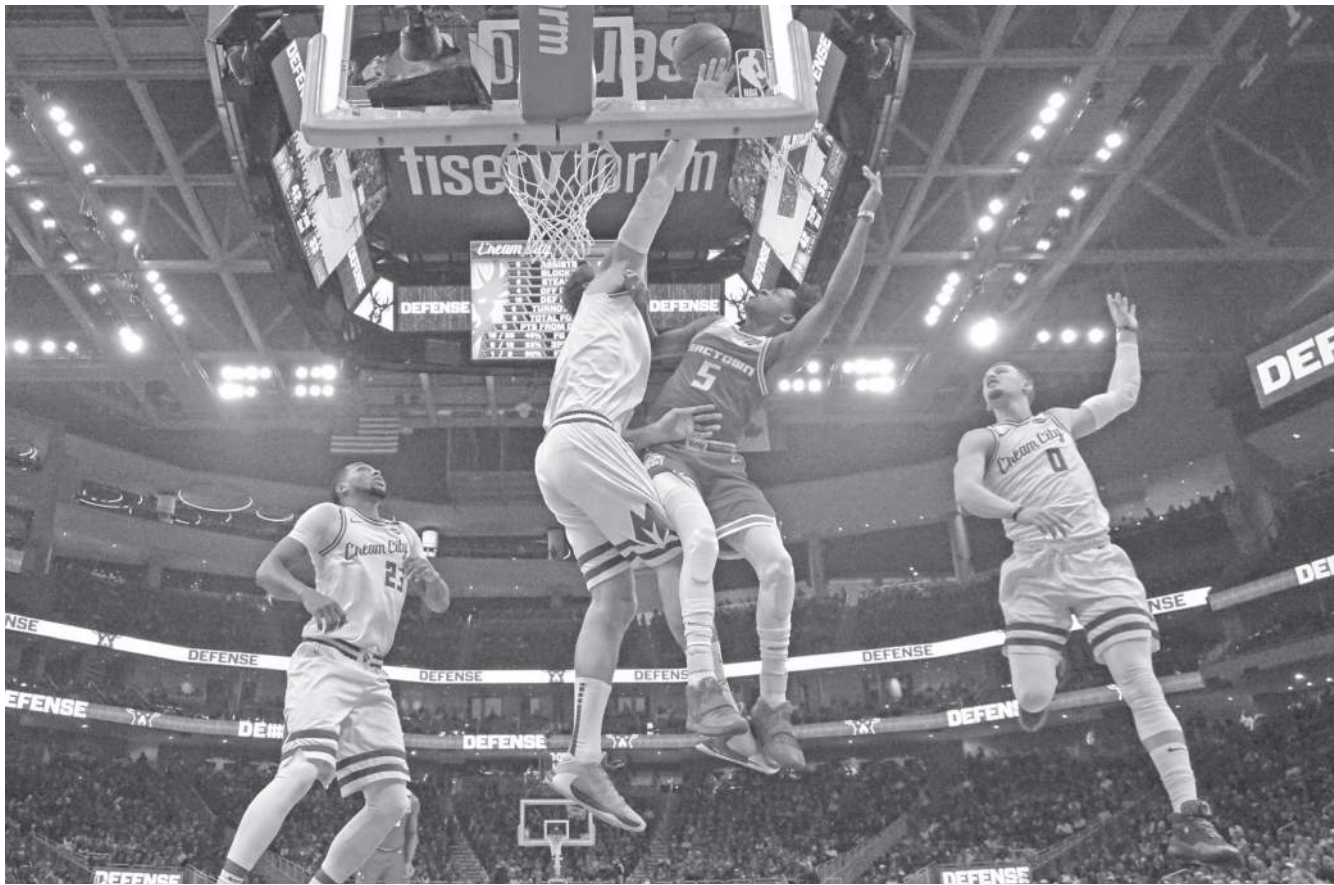
Bogdan Bogdanovic hit two free throws to pull the Kings within 103-97 with 5:58 remaining. Sacramento had a chance to cut it to four, but Middleton came up with a steal and scored on a break-away jam.

Heat 113, Warriors 101

In San Francisco, once Jimmy Butler came back, Miami's longest losing streak of the season was gone.

Butler had 21 points and 10 rebounds in his return to the lineup and the Heat won in Andre Iguodala's first game back in the Bay Area, thumping the Golden State Warriors 113-101 on Monday night.

"We look like a totally different team when our max player is out there," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said of Butler. "He makes it look a little bit smoother, a little bit more settled with our offense. The ball gets to the right places. He finds a way to get to the free throw line. All these things that are necessary when



Milwaukee Bucks' Brook Lopez blocks a shot by Sacramento Kings' De'Aaron Fox during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Feb. 10, 2020, in Milwaukee.

you want to win on the road."

Butler was crisp after sitting out with a right shoulder strain he suffered against the Clippers on Feb. 5. The All-Star forward scored 13 points in the first half, shot 9 of 15 overall and had five assists to help the Heat end their three-game skid.

"That's what my team needs me to do, be that way on both ends of the floor," Butler said. "We have a couple of new guys that are just as effective as I am. It's really great and it's really fun to go out there and compete with them."

Jae Crowder added 21 points and eight rebounds. Bam Adebayo had 13 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists. Kelly Olynyk had 12 points and a career-high 11 assists.

Iguodala, a key member of the Warriors' three championship teams from 2015-18, had two points and five rebounds in 17 minutes against his former team.

Jazz 123, Mavericks 119

In Dallas, another perfect night for Rudy Gobert against Dallas didn't feel much like one with a lead slipping away in the third quarter.

The Utah Jazz and their 7-foot-1 center found a way to hang on for the win.

Jordan Clarkson scored 25 points before fouling out, helping Gobert and the Jazz beat the Mavericks 123-119 on Monday night.

Donovan Mitchell and Bojan Bogdanovic scored 23 points apiece, with each hitting key baskets late in the fourth quarter after the Jazz's 21-point halftime lead was whittled to three in the third.

"It's never all going to be perfect," said Gobert, who was 7 of 7 from the field after making all eight attempts in

Utah's home victory over Dallas last month.

"Some days there's a storm and we got to all come together and finish the game as a team. I think we did a pretty good job doing that when they made a big run."

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored a season-high 33 points and Kristaps Porzingis added 28 for the Mavericks in their seventh straight game without injured All-Star point guard Luka Doncic.

Nets 106, Pacers 105

In Indianapolis, Spencer Dinwiddie struggled to find his shooting touch Monday night.

He rediscovered it in the nick of time for Brooklyn.

Dinwiddie calmly knocked down the go-ahead 21-footer with 5.2 seconds left, then watched as Indiana's final shot come up well short to give the Nets a 106-105 victory over the Indiana Pacers.

"I kept thinking I was going to blow the game because we were playing so well collectively," he said. "I was like, 'Come on, man! You can't be the one that blows this thing.' That last shot was different."

It was a strange game for Dinwiddie.

He finished 4 of 15 from the field and 0 for 7 on 3-pointers yet made 13 of 15 from the free throw line, scoring 21 points and dishing out 11 assists.

Lakers 125, Suns 100

In Los Angeles, Rajon Rondo's Los Angeles Lakers teammates have been encouraging him to be more aggressive and shoot the ball instead of trying to distribute it to everyone. On Monday night, he took the advice to heart.

The 13-year veteran point guard scored a season-high 23 points, including 15 in the

second quarter, as the Lakers rolled to a 125-100 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

"He's always had that confidence but he wants to get everyone involved. We've been on him to shoot those shots and he showed you all what he can do. He does it in practice all the time," Anthony Davis said.

Los Angeles put the game away in the second, which was only the fifth time in Rondo's 13-year career he has scored 15 or more in a period.

"We dared Rondo to shoot from the perimeter and he made us pay," Suns coach Monty Williams said.

The Lakers had dropped three of their last four at Staples Center but didn't have any problems against the undersized Suns. They out-rebounded Phoenix by 30 (59-29) along with a 58-38 advantage in points in the paint.

Raptors 137, Timberwolves 126

In Toronto, Raptors star Pascal Siakam keeps telling teammate OG Anunoby to improve his offense output by thinking less on the court.

Anunoby must not have thought much during Monday's game against Minnesota.

Anunoby scored a career-high 25 points and matched his career best with 12 rebounds, Kyle Lowry had 27 points and 11 assists, and the Raptors extended their franchise-record winning streak to 15 by beating the Timberwolves 137-126.

"Most of the time you can kind of see that he's thinking too much and he's not just playing freely," Siakam said of Anunoby. "Every time he just goes out and plays—once you're open shoot it, you're not open drive it—he always has a good game."

"You've got to keep it simple, and he did tonight."

Anunoby connected on 10 of 13 attempts, going 3 of 4 from 3-point range, and picked up his fifth double-double of the season.

Toronto is 4-0 when Anunoby scores 20 or more.

Nuggets 127, Spurs 120

In Denver, Jamal Murray was hurting, out of rhythm and wondering if he should keep playing when he left the court at halftime. A quick call to his father gave him the incentive to keep going.

San Antonio probably wished the young guard had stayed in the locker room.

Murray scored 14 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter to help the Denver Nuggets rally from 23 down to beat the Spurs 127-120 on Monday night.

Denver scored 74 points in the second half, a season high, and outscored San Antonio by 21 after halftime. The Nuggets have won three in a row and six of their last seven.

Murray was playing his fourth game after missing 10 with a sprained left ankle, an injury he's still playing through. It showed in the first 24 minutes, when he scored three points on 1-of-5 shooting.

Magic 135, Hawks 126

In Orlando, Fla., the Orlando Magic aren't built to shoot their way out of slumps, so know they won't have many nights like they did Monday.

Aaron Gordon scored 26 points, Nikola Vucevic had 24 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, and the Magic surged past the Atlanta Hawks 135-126.

The Magic, who had lost eight of nine overall and five straight at home, stunned themselves and the Hawks

with a 79-point second half that included a season-high 42 points in the fourth quarter. The Magic are 7-0 this season when scoring more than 120 points.

"When the ball goes through the net like that, it's more enjoyable for everyone," Vucevic said. "But we can't expect to make shots like that every night. We don't have that kind of firepower. The reality is, we're not going to win many games giving up 126 points."

But they had it rolling against Atlanta. The Magic hit 52.6% from the field, including a season-high 18 3-pointers, in their highest-scoring game this season.

Orlando hit 13 of 25 3-point attempts in the second half and used a pair of 11-0 runs in the fourth quarter to run down Atlanta.

Evan Fournier had 22 points and Terrence Ross had five 3-pointers and 21 points off the bench. Markelle Fultz contributed 13 points and eight assists.

Hornets 87, Pistons 76

In Detroit, No matter how bad things get for the Charlotte Hornets, they always seem to be able to fix them by playing the Detroit Pistons.

Miles Bridges scored 18 points Monday night and the Hornets ended a five-game losing streak with an 87-76 victory, their 10th straight over Detroit.

The streak includes two consecutive 4-0 season sweeps. The Hornets are 13-36 against the rest of the league and had lost 13 of their previous 14 games.

"I don't know how to explain it," Bridges said. "They play good against everybody else and then when we come in, it is different. It's always a close game when we play them, but I want to keep the streak going."

Malik Monk added 17 points for the Hornets while Devonte' Graham had 14 points and 11 assists. Charlotte won despite shooting 37.5% from the floor.

"Obviously, we've had moments where we can't throw it in the ocean - shooting 37% isn't where we want to be - but we kept digging in and getting stops," Hornets coach James Borrego said. "I think we showed pride in our defense tonight."

The Pistons have lost three straight and nine of 11. Thon Maker led Detroit with 12 points and a career-high 12 rebounds. Bruce Brown added 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Islander Rent-A-Car, AK Toyota top foes

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Islander Rent-A-Car improved to 6-2 in the win-loss column after a thrilling 78-73 win over GSM Hoopaholics in the open division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ken Viray was like a man possessed for Islander Rent-A-Car, scoring 10 of his game-high 24 points in the fourth quarter to tow Islander Rent-A-Car to victory.

For all intents and purposes, Viray finished what he started as the whippet-quick guard kept Islander Rent-A-Car afloat in the first quarter. With him unloading 8 points in the quarter, he kept Hoopaholics at arm's length facing only a 15-23 deficit after 10 minutes of play.

Elgene Mangali took over the cudgels for Islander Rent-A-Car in the second, as the sweet-shooting swingman got hot from 3-point country en route to scoring 11 points in the quarter. As a result, his team successfully gnawed on Hoopaholics' lead, which stood at a mere 3 points, 42-39, at the midway point of the game.

Mel Manibusan was tough inside for Hoopaholics in the third as the beefy center muscled his way for 6 of his 16 total points. His team continued to stave off Viray and company and Hoopaholics was still ahead, 57-54, with time down to 10 minutes in the ballgame.

Both teams would fight tooth and nail in the payoff period with the score tied on several occasions. Viray and Alex Standish, however, made crucial baskets in the homestretch to lead Islander Rent-A-Car to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Islander Rent-A-Car's Ken Viray was named best player of the game in their win over GSM Hoopaholics in the open division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

the 5-point victory.

Viray was named best player of the game for his game-long brilliance, while Mangali pumped in 18 markers in support. Shane Deleon Guerrero led four Hoopaholics players in double figures with 21 points in defeat, which equaled the team's record to 4-4.

Earlier in the afternoon, AK Toyota survived a low-scoring game against winless Pacific Islands Club Saipan, 64-54, also in the open division.

Chris Liles scored nearly half of AK Toyota's total output to lead the team to only its second win in eight matches. After scoring 4 points in the first quarter, the high-flying forward exploded for 12 in the second before adding 6 in the third. He capped his heroics with 9 in the fourth quarter.

He wound up with 31 to earn player of the game honors. Don Brennan was the only double-figure scorer for AK Toyota with 18 points. Pacific Islands Club, which dropped to 0-7, was paced by the 24 markers of gunslinger

James Abuy, while Dan Mateo and Butch Sublemente added 13 and 12, respectively.

The second game of the Sunday schedule was won by Gilas Batang after Saipan Vegas didn't have enough players. The default win raised Gilas Batang's record to 3-5, while Saipan Vegas



dropped to 2-5.

Saturday's second match between open league-leader Blue Eagles A+ Consultant and Saipan Vegas also resulted

in the default for the latter. The win was the seventh against no defeat for Blue Eagles, while loss was eighth in nine tries for Saipan Vegas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AK Toyota's Chris Liles was named best player of the game in their win over Pacific Islands Club Saipan in the open division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

First Game

AK Toyota 66 – Liles 31, Brennan 18, Guilas 6, Coldeen 6, Seekol 3, Jones 2.

Pacific Islands Club 54 – Abuy 24, Mateo 13, Sublemente 12, Castillo 2, Bartolo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-10, 35-17, 54-40, 64-54.

Third Game

Islander Rent-A-Car 78 – Viray 24, Mangali 18, Kapua 7, Quan 6, Torres 4, Standish 4, Ritual 2.

GSM Hoopaholics 73 – Deleon Guerrero 21, Manibusan 16, Lauron 11, Aughenbaugh 11, Babauta 5, Fitial 5, Tenorio 3, Mendez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-23, 42-39, 54-57, 78-73.



FIFA creates fund to help players not paid by clubs



ZURICH (AP)—FIFA is setting aside \$16 million to help players who have not been paid by their clubs.

The funding covers the period up to 2022, and FIFA also wants to set up a monitoring committee with global players' union FIFPro, which assesses the needs of players.

The fund will offer a "safety net" rather than playing players in full, FIFA said in a statement on Tuesday.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said the governing body wanted to show its "commitment to helping players in a difficult



AP

FIFA President Gianni Infantino attends the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020. The 50th annual meeting of the forum will take place in Davos from Jan. 21 until Jan. 24, 2020.

situation."

FIFA has budgeted for \$3 million for the second half of this year and \$4 million in both 2021 and 2022. There is also \$5 million available to deal with cases of salaries going unpaid from July 2015 to June 2020.

"More than 50 clubs in 20 countries have shut in the last five years, plunging hundreds of footballers into uncertainty and hardship," FIFPro president Philippe Piat said. "This fund will provide valuable support to those players and families most in need. Many of these clubs have shut to avoid paying outstanding wages, immediately re-forming as so-called new clubs."

HWANG

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Shimbu in the upper half of the bracket, while No. 2 Wataru Kadokura will face Dave Bachani in lower half of the bracket.

Yu and Kadokura got byes in the first round, while Shimbu and Bachani took separate routes to advance to the second round.

Shimbi breezed past Jaden Wang in the opening round, 6-0, 6-1, while Bachani had a tougher time against Danny Jeoung, 6-4, 6-2.

Henry Choi, Aiden Kim, and Takeru Jim advanced to the second round in the boys U12 singles. Choi defeated Sunny Kang, 6-3, 6-0, while Kim was a 6-4, 6-2 victor against Ocean Kang. Jim didn't even lift his racquet to beat Jace Choi after a walk-

over win.

In the boys U10 singles, No. 2 Landon Pudney scored the tourney's biggest upset so far when he beat top seed Ian Chae, 6-2, last Sunday. A day earlier, Pudney blanked Quido Jambor, 6-0.

Other results in the age group saw Jihun Park beat Eamon Tang, 6-3, and Tang return the favor against Jambor, 6-4.

The 2020 White-Coconut Classic will resume this weekend with a three-day playdate, Feb. 15, 16, and 17 also at the AMP tennis courts in Garapan.

The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association is organizing the 2020 White-Coconut Classic. For more information on the 2020 White-Coconut Classic, call tournament coordinator Jeff Race at 483-5652 or email raceaces@yahoo.com.

JP

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the 5K race. The top 3 male and female finishers in each age category and overall will receive medals.

The 1.5K turnaround is in front of True Value Hardware on Beach Road and the 5K turnaround is just south of the Beach Road-Quartermaster Road Intersection.

The 2020 JP Hero Run will also award prizes to top finishers in six age categories—11-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60+.

Sablan said the JP Hero Run was originally the JP Memorial Walk and that TanHoldings is staging the event in memory of the former *Saipan Tribune* publisher John "JP" Pangelinan.

"This is the 12th annual run honoring the memory of John 'JP' Pangelinan, and we are excited to keep the tradition going. A former publisher for the *Saipan Tribune*, JP was a dear friend and colleague for many at TanHoldings. The JP Hero Run serves a dual purpose—to keep the memory of JP alive and to contribute to the local fight against cancer," she said.

Event proceeds will once again benefit the Marianas March Against Cancer and the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

This year organizers have also introduced an online registration feature in their registration process. Sablan said it can be accessed through <http://bit.ly/registerjpherorun2020>.

Registration can also be

done the traditional way in person by visiting the Tan Holdings Corporate Affairs Office on the 2nd Floor of the JP Center in Garapan. The registration fee up to 12pm on March 27 is \$10. The fee for registration on race day goes up \$5 to \$15.

Shirts, bibs, capes, and masks may be picked up at the Tan Holdings Corporate Affairs Office on weekdays in March from 9am to 12pm; 1pm to 5pm and between 5am and 6am at the Garapan Fishing Base on race day.

All participants will be entered in a raffle for a chance to win a roundtrip ticket to Manila and other fabulous prizes.

The 2020 JP Hero Run is brought to you by TanHoldings Corp. and its philanthropic arm Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

The Triathlon Association of the CNMI will also assist in the timing of runners.

Last year, Kosuke Sato and Heather Taylor were the overall first place finishers in the JP Hero Run's 5K men's and women's divisions, while Markus Toves and Kaithlyn Chavez topped the 1.5K event. Other first place finishers were 13 to 19's Bailey Spaeth and Stella McCallion; 20 to 29's J. Cheng and Taylor Nowicki; 30 to 39's Charlie Sendin and Sheila Isla; 40 to 49's Ronald Villafria and Ayano Braxton; 50 to 59's Jun Hashimoto and Sakiko Eda; and over 60's Steve Pixley and Amalia Harris.

For more information on 2020 JP Hero Run, call 235-0561 ext. 100/166 or email corporate_affairs@tanholdings.com.



LeBron James
among 44 US
Olympic basketball
team finalists

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Source: MLB
considering
expanding playoffs
to 14 teams

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

2021 PACIFIC MINI GAMES

'Possible to add sports back'

By MARK RABAGO
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The Pacific Games Council said the CNMI adding tennis and weightlifting in the sports program for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games is a possibility.

Council chief executive officer Andrew Minogue said adding two sports is always welcome and that they will discuss the Northern Marianas Sports Association's petition to add tennis and weightlifting to the 2021 quadrennial event when they visit the islands next week.



"It is possible to add sports back into the program but additional funding will need to be

secured. We will discuss that with the parties on Saipan next week," he said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Minogue will be traveling to the CNMI with Pacific Games Council president Vidhya Lakhan. Aside from meeting with NMSA, the two are also scheduled to meet with the 2021 CNMI Pacific Mini Games Oversight Committee and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

The Pacific Games CEO said he doesn't expect the CNMI to break the bank by adding tennis and weightlifting into the sports program for next year's Mini Games, which is welcome news given

the government is already in a tight budget to begin with.

"We would have to work out the figures, probably not too much."

He also anticipates no problem when it comes to participating nations in fielding teams for tennis and weightlifting in next year's Mini Games.

"There is no problem of time to field teams. Tennis and weightlifting are extremely popular throughout the Pacific."

In the end, Minogue said the decision to add the two sports for the 2020 Mini Games rests in the Pacific Games Council executive board.

"Our executive board will make the decision to reinstate when we have all of the available information," he said.

The CNMI originally balked at hosting the Mini Games, citing the destruction brought by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018. Torres fortunately had a change of heart and agreed to host a scaled-



Minogue

down Mini Games.

So, from the initial \$8 million, the total budget for hosting the Mini Games was cut to \$3 million and the events featured trimmed to six sports—athletics, baseball, badminton, beach volleyball, golf, and triathlon.

However, NMSA during its general membership meeting last week announced that it wanted to add tennis and weightlifting to the sports program. Under the Pacific Games

rules, a host country can only add original sports from the inaugural Mini Games held in Honiara, Solomon Islands in 1981 and luckily weightlifting and tennis are part of the 12 sports offered 39 years ago.

NMSA president Jerry Tan said during last week's meeting that it's always in the best interest of the CNMI to put on sporting events that its athletes could be competitive in and earn medals from, especially in the coming Mini Games.

"As a host country, I think most of you would appreciate, you really want to put in your best sports that would almost guarantee medals. That's how the host country always get a higher medal count from the previous Games when they adopt sports that they're good at," he said.

Minogue said the CNMI should expect somewhere around 1,000 athletes and officials from 24 countries for the 2021 Mini Games next year.

Hwang, Kwan advance to semis of boys U16

By MARK RABAGO
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Juncheon Hwang and David Kwon advanced to the semifinals of the boys U16 singles in the

2020 White-Coconut Classic last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Hwang defeated his mixed-up doubles partner, Sam Culp, in the opening round, 6-1, 6-0, while Kwon got the better of Min Seong Kim, 6-1, 6-1, in the lower half of the bracket.

Top seed Andy Kim got a bye in the first round and awaits the result of the match between Isaac Heo and Jun Wang.

In the boys U14 singles, the semifinals is set with top seed June Yu taking on Cody

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Pudney



Hwang

JP Hero Run takes off March 28

By MARK RABAGO
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Organizers of this year's JP Hero Run hope to exceed if not match the more than 1,700 registered runners during the revamped event's inaugural staging last year.

The 2020 JP Hero Run is set for March 28 with regis-

tration starting at 5am and go time at 6am at the Garapan Fishing Base, according to TanHoldings Corp. Community Relations director Carline Sablan.

"We had a phenomenal turnout last year with just over 1,700 registered partici-

pants! We hope for another stellar turnout!" she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan said runners that are 10 years and under will be entered in the 1.5K race, while participants 11 years and above will be entered in

See JP on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROY

The 2020 JP Hero Run is set for March 28 with registration starting at 5pm and go time 6pm at the Garapan Fishing Base.